EDITORIAL

As announced by the Czech Minister of the Interior in March 2021, the coming 1,5 years shall focus on the formulation of the Prague Process' political mandate for the period 2023-2027. This work shall start in the second quarter of 2021 with the implementation of three inter-governmental consultations, allowing all participating states to contribute to the formulation of the future Action plan and Ministerial mandate. The members of the Prague Process Strategic Group, together with individual partner countries, will be chairing the three thematic consultations, results of which shall feed into the senior-level discussions later this year and throughout 2022. The ultimate result will be endorsed at the fourth Prague Process Ministerial Conference, envisaged to take place in Prague in autumn 2022.

The importance of this work cannot be underestimated, considering the various changes witnessed across the Prague Process region over the past decade. The experienced challenges ranged from the so-called 'refugee crisis' to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. They require comprehensive, innovative solutions and continuous dialogue among neighbours and partners in the region. This is equally confirmed by various developments observed throughout the first quarter of 2021, covered by this issue of the Quarterly Review.

While the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council aims to reach an agreement on the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) pursue closer integration and better conditions for migrant workers from within the Union and neighbouring states, including through the organised recruitment of labour force. While Greece, Ireland and the UK look to expand their visa and citizenship provisions, Georgia proudly celebrates the fifth anniversary of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan with the EU. Meanwhile, the EU-Armenia relations enter a new stage as the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) becomes operational.

As always, we hope that you will enjoy reading about the most recent Prague Process activities and some key developments in the region, or even find time to look into our newest reading recommendations.

Stay safe and healthy!

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Looking ahead:
upcoming Prague Process activities
2021

6 May	Webinar *"Social Capital and Transnational Human Smuggling: What is the impact of Counter-Smuggling Policies?"* with Andrew Fallone
11 May	1st Thematic Consultation on Irregular Migration, Return, Readmission and Reintegration
25 May	2nd Thematic Consultation on Legal Migration, as well as Migration and Development
June	3rd Thematic Consultation on Asylum, International Protection and Integration
24 June	Webinar *'Reporting Migration: the role of media in shaping public opinion and policies on migration'* with Tom Law, Robert McNeil and Adalbert Jahnz

The Prague Process webinar series

In the first quarter of 2021, the Prague Process organised three webinars:

Ralph Genetzke
Director, Head of Brussels Mission, ICMPD

Jean-Louis De Brouwer
Director of the European Affairs Program, Egmont Institute

Martijn Pluim
Director, Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, ICMPD

The Policy Talk **'Migration Outlook 2021: From COVID-19 to the EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum'** organised on 28 January brought together Mr Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Director of the European Affairs Program of the Egmont Institute, Mr Ralph Genetzke, Director and Head of ICMPD's Brussels Mission, and Mr Martijn Pluim, Director of ICMPD's Migration Dialogues and Cooperation Directorate. Building on the main lessons from 2020, they looked into the various implications of COVID-19 on migration and mobility, trying to sketch out the 'new normal' following an eventual recovery from the ongoing health emergency. The internal and external dimensions of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum were assessed from an international cooperation perspective. The conversation also shed light on the megatrends of climate change and digitalisation.

In early March, the webinar **'Frontex - role and capacity in return'** introduced the agency's pre-return support, including identification, deployments of European Return Liaison Officers (EURLO), the different types of return operations, as well as various digital tools used by Frontex for the management of return cases and statistical reporting at EU level. In response to the outbreak of Covid-19, Frontex adapted its return support to the changing circumstances. The agency contributed to the European Commission guidelines on return and supported Member States with information on current restrictions, safety measures and procedures for chartering of aircraft. As part of its expanded mandate in the field of post-arrival/post-return assistance, Frontex is currently developing Joint Reintegration Services (JRS). Frontex will support Members States in assisting nationals of non-EU countries after their voluntary and non-voluntary return. This includes people with different profiles and backgrounds, including vulnerable groups and individuals.

Later in March, the webinar **'Implications of the Covid-19 Crisis for Mobile Care Workers in Europe'** provided an overview of the different types of long-term care regimes in Europe and discussed the relevance of migration and mobility for long-term care provision. Focusing on the case of the long-term care regime in Austria, the two ICMPD researchers discussed the challenges posed by existing regulations and the effects of Covid-19 crisis on mobile care workers. While the pandemic highlighted the importance of care workers for long-term care systems in many EU Member States, it also deepened the inequalities and dependencies already existing in transnational care arrangements. The case of Romanian and Slovak live-in carers in Austria underlines the need to better balance the interests of sending and receiving countries in the field of long-term care in Europe.

Bernhard Perchinig
Senior Researcher, ICMPD

Mădălina Rogoz
Researcher, ICMPD
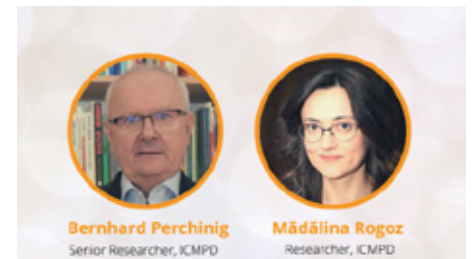
The recordings of the online events are available on the Prague Process website.

Main takeaways from the videoconferences on labour migration and social protection organised by IOM Moscow

Upon the invitation of the Moscow Office of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Prague Process Secretariat took part in three video-conferences throughout February and March. The events focused on legis-lative and practical aspects of labour migration and social protection within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), as well as the impact of COVID-19 on migration and labour markets in the re-gion. The final event was also devoted to organised labour recruitment schemes.

According to the Eurasian Economic Commission, the common EAEU labour market has become a reality. Neither is there a registration required for stays up to 30 days, nor do quotas apply for employment of EAEU citizens within the Union. There are also no proce-dures required for the recognition of academic qualifications and certificates, except for pedagogical, pharmaceutical, medical and legal activities. However, the mutual recognition of academic degrees and titles exist only between Russia and Belarus. All EAEU coun-tries provide emergency and urgent care free of charge, regardless of the residence status. Labour migrants in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia can also benefit from the compulsory state health insurance existing in these coun-tries. A further important milestone for EAEU integration - the long-awaited agreement on pension provision in the EAEU - entered into force on 1 January 2021. Thereby, every EAEU citizen can accumulate seniority and retain pen-sion rights after having worked in an EAEU member states for at least 12 months. The same applies to those hav-ing worked in any of the ex-Soviet re-publics before 1992. Later employment is regulated by the national legislation of each EAEU member state.

Nevertheless, not all freedoms stipulat-ed by the EAEU treaty are fully in place. Long-term migrant workers need to reg-ister every time they cross the border. Moreover, they cannot efficiently get loans and face limitations with accessing state services. Family members of labour migrants working in Russia are not enti-tled to the same compulsory state health insurance. A procedure for changing the purpose of entry in the country of employment is still under development,
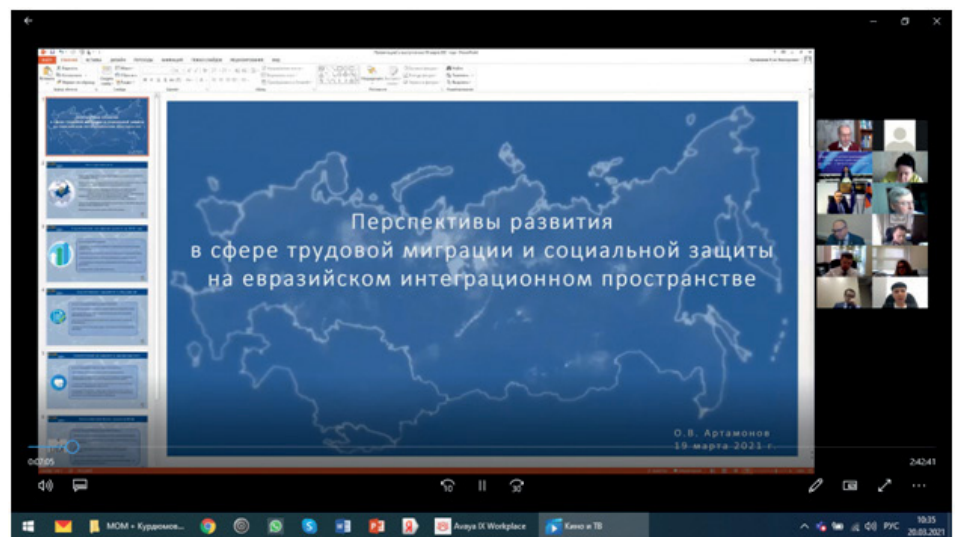
while labour migrants continue facing related challenges. COVID-19 also un-leashed additional drawbacks related to healthcare, the level of which differs in each EAEU member state.

Acknowledging existing challenges, December 2020 saw the adoption of strategic areas of the EAEU integration until 2025. The EAEU shall further pro-mote the free movement of the labour force and its employment, focus on co-operation in the health sector, as well as on comparability of education pro-grams and systems. At present, the dif-ference in the level of professional edu-cation makes the potential of the EAEU member states unequal. The plan is to ensure remote authentication of docu-ments and consistent convergence of qualifications in a single labour market. The draft EAEU agreement on recogni-tion of academic degrees and titles is already under negotiation. Meanwhile, the introduction of digital tools should help ensure mobility and distant re-cruitment in the Union. To this end, the Federal Employment Service of Russia is developing an online platform "Work without borders" that will be launched in July 2021. The platform will entail both vacancy and CV search options, allowing potential employees to react to vacancy announcements and poten-tial employers to invite candidates to interviews. In the future, the platform may also feature a digital employment contract, CV-matching, support and customer services.

With migrant workers remaining in de-mand, COVID-19 pushed the idea of an organised recruitment of the labour force (ORLF) forward. Russia's state au-thorities understand ORLF as a process regulated strictly by intergovernmental agreements. For the time being, such agreements only exist with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The main aim of the ORLF algorithms shall consist in achiev-ing a balance between the necessary recruitment of foreign labour and state security.

Given the decline both in migration flows and labour market shortages witnessed in 2020, Russia deployed a special mechanism for the recruitment of foreign labour during the pandemic. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan swiftly adopt-ed their practices to the new mecha-nism and mobilised workers for the key economic sectors. Nevertheless, the overall number of workers mobilised through these schemes remains negli-gible. Various stakeholders have high-lighted several limitations of the current mechanism, starting with the income requirement of two billion roubles for companies attracting foreign labour. Employers also remain unprotected since the current work permits (patents) do not feature the name of the organi-zation that recruited them. Moreover, foreign workers often have financial in-centives to move from one employer to another, irrespective of their obligation to return following the termination of the initial employment contract. On the

other hand, employers do not always fulfil the ORLF conditions either. The fact that they do not always fully respect the rights of labour migrants points to the need of establishing a mediation body to resolve conflicts.

The ORLF schemes shall feature a needs assessment mechanism, a pre-departure health assessment, a simplification of bureaucratic procedures and – most importantly perhaps

- a set of preferences for workers and employers, which remain absent in the existing intergovernmental agreements with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The experience of South Korea in attracting foreign labour can serve as an example. Similarly, Russia could adopt a regulation obliging the parties to conclude labour contracts before departure, thereby protecting both workers and employers.

Entering into force of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement: What role for migration?

On 1 March, the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partner-ship Agreement (CEPA) entered into force, following ratification by the Republic of Armenia, all EU Member States and the European Parliament. The CEPA represents an important milestone, providing a cooperation framework in a wide range of areas.

When it comes to migration and mobility, *'enhancing the mobility and people-to-people contacts'* figures among the objectives of the Agreement set out in Article 1. The Agreement's preamble:

⇒ *Recognises 'the importance of the active participation of the Republic of Armenia in regional cooperation formats, including those supported by the European Union'.*

⇒ *Commits to 'stepping up their dialogue and cooperation on migration, asylum and border management [...]'.*

⇒ *Reconfirms that 'enhanced mobility of the citizens of the Parties in a secure and well-managed environment remains a core objective and considering in due course the opening of a visa dialogue with the Republic of Armenia'*

Article 3, setting out the aims of political dialogue, refers to *'taking steps towards opening borders to promote regional trade and cross-border movement'*.

Article 14

Cooperation on migration, asylum and border management

1. The Parties reaffirm the importance of the joint management of migration flows between their territories and shall establish a comprehensive dialogue on all migration-related issues, including legal migration, international protection and the fight against illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

2. Cooperation will be based on a specific needs-assessment conducted through mutual consultation between the Parties and will be implemented in accordance with their relevant legislation. It will, in particular, focus on:
(a) addressing the root causes of migration;
(b) the development and implementation of national legislation and practices as regards international protection, with a view to satisfying the provisions of the Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees of 1951, the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967 and other relevant international instruments, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, and to ensuring respect for the principle of 'non-refoulement';
(c) the admission rules and rights and status of persons admitted, fair treatment and integration of lawfully residing non- nationals, education and training and measures against racism and xenophobia;
(d) the establishment of an effective and preventive policy against illegal migration, the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, including the issue of how to combat networks of smugglers and traffickers and how to protect the victims of such trafficking in the framework of relevant international instruments;
(e) issues such as organisation, training, best practices and other operational measures in the areas of migration management, document security, visa policy, border-management and migration-information systems;

3. Cooperation may also facilitate circular migration for the benefit of development.

The full entry into force of the CEPA on 1 March will further strengthen the co-operation in the migration area (see the CEPA's respective provisions in the table below). The Prague Process stands ready to provide its contribution to supporting the mentioned objectives.

Image © Kingsmen Investments

Article 15

Movement of persons and readmission

1. The Parties that are bound by the following Agreements shall ensure the full implementation of:
(a) the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation; and
(b) the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of

Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.
2. The Parties shall continue to promote the mobility of citizens through the Visa-facilitation Agreement and consider in due course the opening of a visa-liberalisation dialogue provided that conditions for well-managed and secure mobility are in place. They shall cooperate in fighting irregular migration, including through the implementation of the Readmission Agreement, as well as promoting border-management policy as well as legal and operational frameworks.

Operationalisation of European Travel Information and Authorisation System agreed at EU Level

On 18 March, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed on making the future European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) interoperable with other EU information systems. The agreement details how ETIAS will work with other EU information systems, which it will query when conducting checks, namely the Entry/Exit System, the Visa Information System, the Schengen Information System and a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on non-EU nationals. Its provisions also set out the purpose of the queries, the data to be used for them and provisions for granting the ETIAS central and national units the necessary access rights, in full respect of personal data protection. The agreement thus represents an important step towards the entry into operation of the system by the end of 2022.
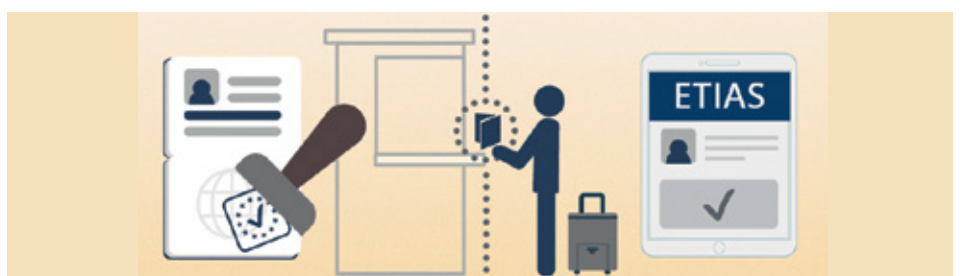
The EU Agency responsible for managing large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA) will integrate the newly agreed rules into the design of ETIAS. Once in place, ETIAS will be managed by the Member States, in close cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and Europol. This will lead to faster, more systematic information for law enforcement officers, border guards and migration officials, where information was previously stored separately in unconnected systems. It will help ensure correct identification of those crossing the EU's borders and contribute to fighting identity fraud, improving border management and enhancing security.

Once ETIAS is in place, non-EU citizens travelling visa-free to the Schengen area will need to register and obtain an authorisation already before travelling. The system will cross-check travellers against EU information systems for borders, security and migration before their trip, helping to identify people who may pose a risk to security or health, as well as compliance with migration rules. As highlighted by Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission: *"Anyone who poses a migratory or security risk will be identified before they even travel to EU borders, while bona fide travellers' journeys will be made that much easier. This is an essential step in building a Security Union with strong external borders and faster, more systematic information for law enforcement officers, border guards and migration officials on the ground."*

ETIAS will neither change which non-EU countries are subject to a visa requirement, nor will it introduce new visa requirements for nationals of countries that are visa-exempt. It will, however, subject visa-exempt non-EU nationals to an authorisation system before they travel. It will take only a few minutes to fill in an online application, which will result in automatic approval in the vast majority of cases (expected to be over 95%). The process will be simple, fast and affordable: the ETIAS authorisation will cost €7, which will be a one-off fee, and will be valid for 3 years and multiple entries.

PRAGUE PROCESS
ПРАЖСКИЙ ПРОЦЕСС

ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

MPF
Mobility Partnership Facility

Funded by
the European Union

PASSPORT INDEX

Most powerful EU passports

1 **GERMANY** **135**
✈ 99 🏛 36 ❗ 63

2 **FINLAND** **134**
✈ 98 🏛 36 ❗ 64

SPAIN **134**
✈ 98 🏛 36 ❗ 64

3 **SWEDEN** **133**
✈ 99 🏛 34 ❗ 65

AUSTRIA **133**
✈ 98 🏛 35 ❗ 65

ITALY **133**
✈ 98 🏛 35 ❗ 65

IRELAND **133**
✈ 95 🏛 38 ❗ 65

Most powerful non-EU passports in PP region

2 **SWITZERLAND** **134**
✈ 95 🏛 39 ❗ 64

5 **NORWAY** **131**
✈ 95 🏛 36 ❗ 67

9 **LIECHTENSTEIN** **127**
✈ 91 🏛 36 ❗ 71

22 **TURKEY** **97**
✈ 54 🏛 43 ❗ 101

24 **RUSSIAN FEDERATION** **96**
✈ 62 🏛 34 ❗ 102

28 **UKRAINE** **88**
✈ 48 🏛 40 ❗ 110

33 **GEORGIA** **82**
✈ 44 🏛 38 ❗ 116

0 place in the global ranking   **000** overall mobility score   ✈ visa-free countries   🏛 visa on arrival   ❗ visa required

REGULAR NATURALISATION PREREQUISITES

Duration of prior residence in selected countries

years

10	10	8	5	5	5	5	5
ITALY	SPAIN	GERMANY	FRANCE	SWEDEN	KAZAKHSTAN	TURKEY	RUSSIA

Local language proficiency

NOT REQUIRED — **CY*, IE, SE***
* language proficiency test under negotiation

ELEMENTARY KNOWLEDGE — **BG, MT, SK**

A2 LEVEL (CEFR) — **BE, ES, IT, LT, LU, NL, PT**

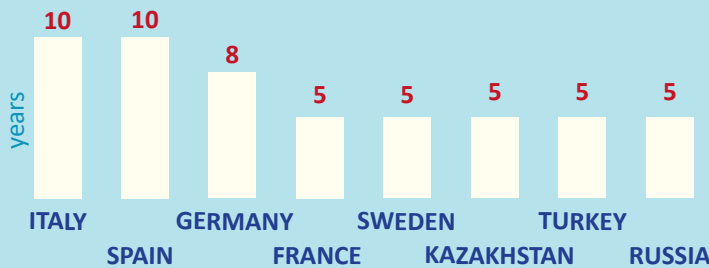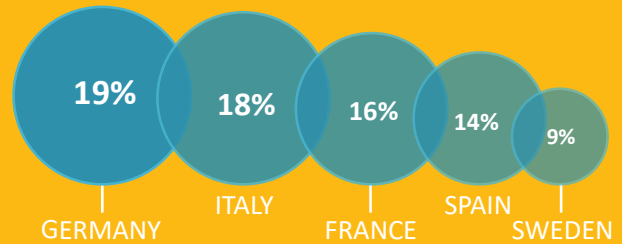**B1 LEVEL (CEFR)** — **AT, CZ, DE, EE, EL, FR, HR, LV, LU, PL**

NEW VISA INITIATIVES

- Greece is planning a special **digital nomad visa** for attracting ICT specialists

- Irish Government will introduce a new seasonal job permit for short-stay workers in **horticulture sector**

- The UK will offer a **fast-track visa** to attract highly skilled workers for its **fintech** sector

- Sweden may require confirmation of **financial means and proficiency in Swedish language** for permanent residence permit

TOP 5 EU COUNTRIES GRANTING CITIZENSHIP IN 2019

accounted for 75 % of new citizenships granted in the EU

GERMANY	ITALY	FRANCE	SPAIN	SWEDEN
19%	18%	16%	14%	9%

DUAL CITIZENSHIP IS ALLOWED IN:

(flags: Albania, Belarus, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom)

SOURCES:
PASSPORT INDEX https://www.passportindex.org/byrank.php
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP OBSERVATORY https://globalcit.eu/country-profiles/
EUROSTAT https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Acquisition_of_citizenship_statistics
PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP FOR THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN THE EU: EMN SYNTHESIS REPORT FOR THE EMN STUDY 2019, JULY 2020
https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/00_eu_emn_study_synthesis_report_citizenship_final_en.pdf
THE LOCAL.AT https://www.thelocal.at/20210325/compare-which-european-countries-have-the-toughest-rules-for-gaining-citizenship/
TORNOS NEWS https://www.tornosnews.gr/en/tourism-businesses/travel-tech/43482- gital-nomads.html
THE IRISH TIMES https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/new-seasonal-jo
REUTERS https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-fintech-idUSKBN2AQ0OL

International Conference on "New Models of Migration Management System: Impact of VLAP Implementation in Georgia"

On 26 March, the State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia (SCMI) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) held the international conference titled 'New Models of Migration Management System: Impact of VLAP Implementation in Georgia'. Organised by the EU-funded Project "Sustaining Migration Management in Georgia" (ENIGMMA 2), together with the European Migration Network (EMN), the conference brought together representatives of the European Union and Eastern Partnership countries.

The event marked the fifth anniversary of Georgia's implementation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP), which would not have been possible without the solid foundation established by national and international actors, civil society and partner states in the past. The VLAP marked the beginning of a new chapter, enabling Georgia to transform its migration management system. By enabling the country to effectively respond to new realities and to establish new partnerships (e.g. with the EMN), the VLAP has actually exceeded its objectives. Georgia aims at sustaining these positive dynamics and develop permanent mechanisms to enhance the nexus between migration and development.

The conference assessed the visa-liberalisation path from a regional perspective, displaying the Moldovan experience and presenting the key migration management tools in the region. Highlighting the importance of the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, migration partnerships and dialogues, it called for new partnerships to address effectively the ever-changing challenges.

Conference Publication: Georgia – European Union Cooperation: Compendium of Migration Milestones Fact and Figures is available in EN under this link.

Country in Focus: The impact of COVID-19 on Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a country with a young and growing population exceeding nine million people. For the remittance-dependent nation, where 30% of the population live below the national poverty line, the year 2020 was one of the most challenging since the civil war in 1992-1997. It exposed Tajikistan's economic dependency on Russia, being the prime destination for Tajik labour migrants, while also revealing the food security problem.

Since the abrupt outbreak of COVID-19, Tajik migrants have faced unemployment, the lack of access to health as well as social and economic benefits, and xenophobic and chauvinistic attitudes. The closure of the Russian borders and travel restrictions imposed across the region left many Tajik labour migrants stranded across Russia and neighbouring countries. For weeks, affected migrants camped out in overcrowded airport terminals and train stations unable to self-quarantine. Even today, the share of households with migrants left abroad remains considerably high as there have been very limited travel options to bring migrants home to Tajikistan since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The situation caused serious damage to Tajikistan's economic performance since the country heavily relies on remittances viewed as a lifeline for poor Tajik families.

Image © World Bank

The World Bank indicates that over 80% of Tajik households primarily spend remittances on food and other necessities. Remittances comprise nearly 30% of the Tajik GDP, with the volume of remittances from Russia often exceeding Tajikistan's annual revenue budget and foreign direct investment (FDI), making Tajikistan one of the world's most remittance-dependent countries.

According to UNDP, labour migrants transferred US\$ 600 to 800 million to their families in the second quarter of 2018 and 2019. In April 2020, remittance income fell dramatically, slightly recovering in May. In response, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial support, describing the economic situation of the country as adverse and highlighting the 50% decline in the volume of remittances from

Russia. The Russian Central Bank reported that Tajik workers sent \$681mn to Tajikistan in the first half of 2020, which was \$430mn less as compared to 2019. According to the Ministry of Labour of Tajikistan, the number of Tajik citizens seeking work abroad decreased by 57% over the six-month period.

The pandemic has equally exposed Tajikistan's food security problem and dependency on food imports. Reduced food consumption suddenly concerned 41% of the population in May 2020 – twice as many people as one year before. The ban on exports of certain foods announced on behalf of Russia and Kazakhstan in 2020 increased the numbers of those nearly starving dramatically. Meanwhile, the coping measures adopted by the Government resulted in a depreciation of the national

currency, placing Tajikistan among the top twenty countries worldwide in terms of highest food prices.

Despite the tremendous implications of the pandemic, the Tajik Government continues taking steps to improve its migration management. The country is developing a new national migration strategy and improving pre-departure information systems, diversifying external labour markets and working towards enhancing the skills and employability of Tajik labour migrants in- and outside the country. With the gradual opening of international borders observed over the past weeks, Tajikistan hopes to return to pre-COVID conditions, allowing its population and economy to again benefit from migration and mobility.

READS

Newly released publications of the Prague Process Migration Observatory

Policy brief by
by Lesia Dubenko and Pavlo Kravchuk

'Ukrainian Labour Migration to the EU. State of play, Challenges and Solutions'

Since 2014, the number of Ukrainian labour migrants moving to the European Union (EU) has increased significantly. In 2019 alone, Ukrainian nationals received 660,000 residence permits for remunerated activities across the member states – the largest external labour force in the EU. The reliance of member state economies on workers from Ukraine has thus reached significant levels, as exemplified by the labour shortage seen during the COVID-19 crisis that forced the EU to shut down its borders.

While Ukrainian labour migration to the EU produces economic benefits on both sides, the exchange is beset by multiple

challenges. These include limited protection of Ukrainian labour migrants, circumvention of work permit rules, and attempts by unscrupulous actors to lure Ukrainians into accepting precarious or non-existent jobs. This report assesses these challenges and their implications, before providing a set of targeted solutions, ranked according to a Feasibility Score. The proposed solutions range from establishing a 'one-stop-shop' for information provision and a joint employment database for non-EU nationals, to launching negotiations on amending the legislation on work permits.

Access here.

Background note by
by Zulfiya Sibagatulina

'Embracing a Dynamic Future. Monumental Shifts in Uzbek Labour Migration Policy'

The recent past has seen Uzbekistan's great efforts toward regulating organised labour migration. The country concluded a number of far-reaching agreements with countries hosting large numbers of Uzbek migrant workers, thereby supporting the employment of own citizens abroad. It also prioritized efforts on creating jobs and promoting employment within the country, especially among the youth, with 2021 proclaimed "The Year of Youth Support and Health Promotion" by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Meanwhile, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the domestic workforce, including returning migrants, negatively and forced the Uzbek Government to take additional measures to provide legal and social protection to labour migrants in order to mitigate these negative consequences.

This paper summarises the latest developments in this field and actions taken by the Government, ranging from the introduction of a system of economic, financial, organisational and legal assistance for migrants to the provision of training for in-demand professions, skills and languages.
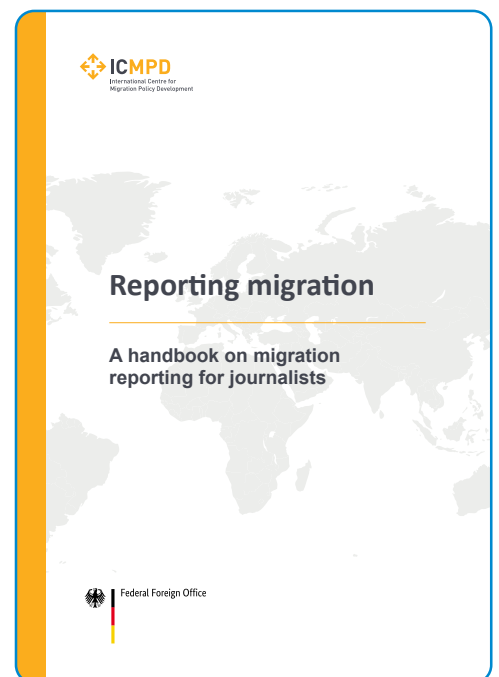
Access here.

Interesting reads

**'Reporting migration -
a handbook on migration reporting for journalists'
by Robert McNeil and Tom Law**

Developed within the framework of the MOMENTA 2 (Migration Media Training Academy) project, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by ICMPD in 2020, the handbook aims to improve media migration reporting in the Eastern Partnership countries. In recognition of the role, which media plays in shaping public opinion as well as informing the public on various policies on migration, the handbook was produced to help journalists create impartial, fact-based reporting in an engaging way. Wherever possible the handbook reflects to the needs of the Eastern Partnership region in terms of terminology and the obtainment of sources. Nevertheless, each chapter can be used as a stand-alone section depending on the needs and knowledge gaps that the journalists want to fill. The handbook encompasses relevant migration reporting topics such as ethical foundations, trends in migration reporting and migration stories, interviews and the use of experts, data use, tools and resources.

Acces here.

TURKEY & WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE
MARCH 2021

ICMPD
Regional Migration Outlook 2021
TURKEY & WESTERN BALKANS

ICMPD's Regional Migration Outlook 2021: Turkey and Western Balkans

Since 2014, Turkey has been hosting the largest number of refugees worldwide. Traditionally a country of origin and transit, it quickly transformed into a major destination country due to regional crises, such as the armed conflicts in Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic and the situation of the 3,6 million Syrians under temporary protection have dominated the Turkish migration policy debate. While the number of refugee and migrant arrivals to Turkey decreased in the first half of 2020, it remained continuously high for the Western Balkan countries, where the implemented border closures and travel restrictions further resulted in a magnitude of stranded migrants and an intensification of smuggling activities. This ICMPD Regional Migration Outlook for Turkey and the Western Balkans briefly summarises the key migration and policy trends observed in 2020 and provides an outlook on the main developments to watch out for in 2021.

Acces here.

PRIO Paper 'Integration and Development: Need for Dialogue' by Marta Bivand Erdal, Jørgen Carling, Cindy Horst and Mathias Hatleskog Tjønn

This Paper examines how the integration experiences of migrants and their descendants in settlement countries affect development processes in countries of origin. The authors review eight specific conduits for diaspora contributions to development, including remittance transfer, voting and activism, and participation in official development cooperation. Each of these mechanisms is intertwined with integration experiences and potentially shaped by policy measures at both ends. Evidence from across different countries shows that links between migrants' engagement in the development of their countries of origin and integration processes in countries of settlement exist and do matter. There is a need for dialogue and policy coherence, where policy concerns in the fields of integration, development and migration management intersect.

Acces here.

PRIO

Independent • International • Interdisciplinary   PRIO PAPER   2020

Integration and Development:
Need for Dialogue

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TURKEY POLICY BRIEF

ICMPD
International Centre for
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IRREGULAR MIGRATION
by ICMPD Turkey

1. Trends in 2020

Turkey has long been a transit route for irregular migrants aiming to cross to Europe, due to its geographical location. This has changed in recent years, notably with the onset of the conflict in Syria and the subsequent influx of Syrian refugees to Turkey but also due to a rapid increase in the flow of irregular migrants from other countries in the wider neighbourhood, with Turkey having become a country of destination. According to the available statistics from the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), as of December 2020, there are more than 4.5 million foreign nationals present in Turkey, of which 3.64 million are Syrian nationals, who have been granted temporary protection in Turkey.[1] In 2020, the number of people seeking international protection stood at 31,334.[2]

In 2020, there was a discernible decrease in the detection of illegal border-crossings in Turkey, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of irregular migrants apprehended by Turkish authorities stood at 122,302 as of end of December 2020. This indicates a decrease of almost 74% in comparison to 2019.[3] In 2019, the number of apprehended irregular migrants was 454,662, having rapidly gone up from 58,647 in 2014 to 268,003 in 2018. Given the bleak outlook in the main countries of origin, exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, immigration from these countries to Turkey is likely to continue in 2021 and could easily return or surpass pre-pandemic levels once current restrictions to mobility are removed.

Apprehension of Irregular Migrants

146,485	2015
174,466	2016
175,752	2017
268,003	2018
454,662	2019
122,302	2020*

Source: DGMM, Turkey

[1] DTM Migrant Presence Monitoring – Situation Report (November 2020); https://displacement.iom.int/system/tdf/reports/Turkey_Sitrep_11_nov_20.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=10293 , p.1.
[2] T.C.İçişleri Bakanlığı Göç İdaresi Genel Müdürlüğü Website: https://www.goc.gov.tr/uluslararasi-koruma-istatistikler
[3] T.C.İçişleri Bakanlığı Göç İdaresi Genel Müdürlüğü Website: https://www.goc.gov.tr/duzensiz-goc-istatistikler

International Centre for Migration Policy Development

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Policy Briefs on Turkey

In January, ICMPD's Regional Office for Turkey and Western Balkans prepared and released a set of policy briefs addressing developments across six different migration-related areas in Turkey. All briefs provide an overview of 2020 trends and major policy developments in the given thematic area, as well as respective conclusions and policy recommendations.

Access the Brief on Irregular migration
Access the Brief on Legal migration
Access the Brief on Asylum and Refugees
Access the Brief on Trafficking in Human Beings
Access the Brief on Migration and Development
Access the Brief on Migration and Civil Society