

# PRAGUE PROCESS QUARTERLY REVIEW

#36

JANUARY-MARCH 2024

## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present you with the latest edition of the Quarterly Review, covering January to March 2024. This year, the Prague Process celebrates its 15th anniversary, a milestone that highlights sustained commitment of the Prague Process Parties to promote migration partnerships and cooperation. On this occasion, we look back to the first Ministerial Conference in Prague on 27-28 April 2009 and the subsequent evolution of the Prague Process.

This issue will inform you on the latest activities and outputs of the Prague Process:

Our traditional Policy Talk in January looked into the key migration-related developments expected for 2024. Moreover, ICMPD's Regional Migration Outlook for Eastern Europe and Central Asia pinpoints eight critical issues to watch in 2024, helping to guide our future actions and migration policies. In February, we kicked off the Thematic Component 1 on preventing and fighting irregular migration and migrant smuggling, constituting our participating states' top priority within the [Action Plan 2023-2027](#). We also visited the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, which provided ample inspiration on labour migration issues.

The newest publications of the Prague Process Migration Observatory provide forced migration scenarios for Ukraine, assess the recent inflow of the Russian "Relokanty" in the South Caucasus and Central Asia, and explore the potential of digitalisation for more effective migration management. Finally, we have managed to conclude the e-course on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, now available on the Prague Process e-Learning Platform!

We hope that you will find this issue enriching and informative!

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## LOOKING AHEAD: UPCOMING PRAGUE PROCESS ACTIVITIES

- 12 April | Online**  
Prague Process Strategic Group Meeting
- 18 April | Online**  
Thematic Component 2: Online Consultation introducing the results of the needs assessment survey and training curriculum on Reintegration
- 23-24 April | Vilnius, Lithuania**  
Thematic Component 3: Kick-off Workshop on Labour Migration (b2b with EMN LT Conference)
- 24-26 April | Istanbul, Türkiye**  
World Border and Security Congress
- May (tbc) | Online**  
Webinar 'Forced migration from Ukraine: scenarios to watch out for'
- 4-5 June | Valletta, Malta**  
Thematic Component 4: Kick-off Workshop on Asylum and International Protection
- 11-13 June | Amsterdam, the Netherlands**  
Identity Week Europe 2024 Conference & Training on Identity Verification & Document Authentication
- 18-19 June | Larnaca, Cyprus**  
Thematic Component 2: EMN-PP Workshop on Return & Reintegration (co-organised with EMN Cyprus)

## POLICY TALK 'LOOKING INTO 2024: WHAT MIGRATION-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS TO EXPECT'

In our beginning-of-the-year tradition, Jean-Louis De Brouwer (Director, European Affairs Program, Egmont Institute) and Ralph Genetzke (Director, ICMPD Brussels Mission) met again to assess the key lessons and migration policy developments of 2023 and shared their expectations for 2024. Amidst conflicts and crises across the EU's neighbourhood, the European Council's historic decision on the EU enlargement of December 2023 was assessed from a migration policy perspective, as were the upcoming mid-2024 EU elections. The panel also delved into the future role of the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration, the forced displacement of Ukrainians, recent attempts by EU Member States to externalize asylum procedures, and the need to boost legal migration channels.

Watch the recording [here](#).

## INSIGHTS FROM THE KICK-OFF WORKSHOP OF THEMATIC COMPONENT 1: PREVENTING AND FIGHTING IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING

On 13-14 February 2023, the Ministry of Interior of Hungary hosted the Prague Process Kick-off Workshop. This meeting constituted the first activity of Thematic Component 1 (Preventing and fighting irregular migration and migrant smuggling), bringing together representatives of 27 Prague Process states, the European Commission, Frontex, eu-LISA, IOM, JCP, MARRI and ICMPD.

Read more [here](#).



## HOW IT ALL BEGAN: 15 YEARS OF THE PRAGUE PROCESS COOPERATION



This year constitutes the Prague Process' 15th anniversary and thereby an opportunity to reflect upon the origins and evolution of the Process since its establishment in 2009.

The Prague Process was officially initiated during the inaugural Ministerial Conference in Prague on 27-28 April 2009 organised by the Czech EU Presidency within the EU-funded 'Building Migration Partnerships' project. The endorsement of the [Prague Process Joint Declaration](#) laid down the cornerstone for the cooperation among the Prague Process countries.

In November 2011, the second Ministerial Conference adopted the Action Plan 2012-2016. This period saw the implementation of the [Prague Process Targeted Initiative](#), including seven Pilot Projects and the Knowledge Base, consisting of Migration Profiles and the i-Map. The 'Eastern Partnership cooperation in the fight against irregular migration' (EaP – SIPPAP) and the [ERIS project](#) on integration policies were equally implemented under the Prague Process umbrella.

The adoption of the Ministerial Declaration in Bratislava in 2016 kicked-off the third phase of cooperation, marked by the establishment of the Prague Process [Migration Observatory](#) and [Training Academy](#). Expanding its institutional framework, this phase underscores the evolution and deepening of the Process's foundations.

Finally, the current Phase IV, is shaped by the [Ministerial Declaration 2022](#) and the [Prague Process Action Plan 2023-2027](#) adopted at the 4th Prague Process Ministerial Conference, held by the Czech EU Presidency in October 2022. This phase of implementation represents a widened scope of the joint work and more operational collaboration through introduction of four designated Thematic Components on top priority areas of the Action Plan. The current phase recognising present realities and pressing challenges that require joint solutions including through the sharing of information, capacity building, modern technologies and digitalisation.

Over the years, the Prague Process has seen significant strides in the approximation of legal systems and national practices. This alignment, coupled with the continuous exchange of knowledge and experience, stands as a testament to the Process's success.

Read more about the inception of the Prague Process [here](#).

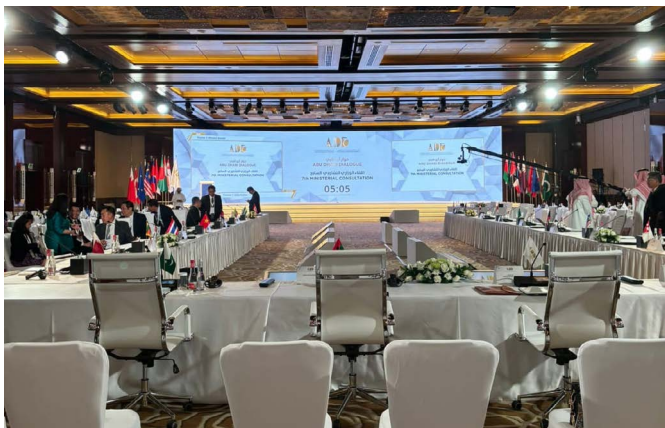


## ICMPD REGIONAL MIGRATION OUTLOOK FOR EECA: 8 ISSUES TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2024

The Regional Migration Outlook for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) presents an analysis of the key events and trends that shaped migration in the EECA region in 2023. Simultaneously, it offers a cautious outlook into areas and issues that may affect migration and mobility to, within and from EECA in 2024. The publication forecasts **eight migration issues to look out for in 2024**. Access the document [here](#).



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ABU DHABI DIALOGUE SOM AND MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION



On 10–11 February 2024, the Prague Process Secretariat participated in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and the 7th Ministerial Consultation held in Dubai. The meetings provided a platform for discussing challenges and opportunities within the area of labour migration, amongst others focusing on research findings related to the online dispute resolution, wage protection systems, diaspora financing, as well as gender equality. Moreover, the topic of skills development and skills partnership has been central in state interventions and became part and parcel of the ADD thematic agenda for the next two years.

Echoing trends within the Prague Process region, participating countries of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue demonstrated heightened commitment to fostering skills partnerships across the Asia-Gulf Countries Corridor. Recognising international mobility to address the demand for highly sought-after digital and transversal skills, stakeholders emphasised the importance of adapting labour mobility schemes to meet evolving needs. While the emergence of skills mobility schemes was lauded as a positive development, concerns lingered regarding their scalability and sustainability. Furthermore, the anticipated surge in demand for green skills due to the global economic transition towards a low-carbon future emphasized the necessity of integrating this shift into the design of labour mobility schemes and market policies.

In a bid to bolster evidence-based labour migration policies, states-parties of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue entrusted the ADD Secretariat with the task of producing pertinent studies and actively engaging ADD Member States in initiating the development and implementation of pilot skill partnerships.

The adopted ADD Ministerial Declaration and other outcome documents of the meetings can be accessed [here](#).

## MIGRATION OBSERVATORY: NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Policy Brief 'Russian "Relokanty" in the Caucasus and Central Asia'

Georgia, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have absorbed hundreds of thousands of migrants who left Russia in the two years since its invasion of Ukraine. These Russians, who call themselves "relokanty", have transformed national economies and urban spaces. Inflows of talent and capital have also delivered societal challenges. These range from increased inflation to renewed memories of the negative impacts of Russian and Soviet colonization, as well as fears that these relokanty might constitute a new vehicle for Russian influence. This publication describes the current situation of Russian migrants in four countries and their possible considerations for short- and long-term strategies for residence.

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

### Report 'Exploring the Potential of Digitalisation in Migration Management in the Prague Process Region'

This report has been created following the discussions among - and inputs from - participants of the Prague Process Workshop held in Tbilisi in October 2023, highlighting best practices, key success factors and stumbling blocks to digitalising the various

aspects of the migration management cycle, as well as providing some recommendations for next steps. The Workshop focused on the increased role of digitalisation, and how this can be deployed to assist in migration management.

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

### Policy Brief 'Forced Migration from Ukraine: migration scenarios 2.0'

Twenty months after the onset of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, a military stalemate has emerged. This current situation suggests that neither Russia will be able to capture further Ukrainian territory, nor will Ukraine be able to reclaim large parts of the occupied regions in the near future. However, as witnessed in the spring and autumn of 2022, when the Ukrainian armed forces drove back Russian invaders, surprises cannot be ruled out. This policy brief considers the displacement and forced migration inside and outside Ukraine's international border, the dynamics of these movements, the individuals' aspirations and the possible future developments in migration trends while reassessing scenarios developed in 2022.

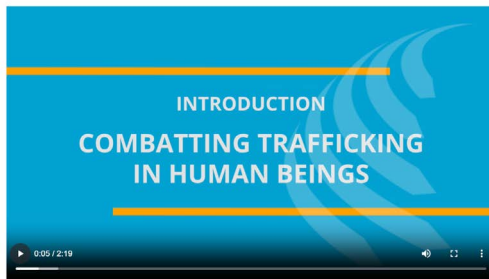
Read in [English](#) or [Russian](#)

# UPDATES FROM THE PRAGUE PROCESS E-LEARNING PLATFORM

## Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings

### Contents

- Section 1: Introduction to the Course
- Section 2: Basics and Legal Instruments
- Section 3: Trends in trafficking in human beings
- Section 4: Understanding trafficking in human beings in the context of irregular migration
- Section 5: Response to trafficking in human



The newly uploaded e-course on **Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings**, developed by ICMPD's Anti-Trafficking Programme and the Prague Process, aims to equip professionals in migration and asylum with fundamental knowledge about human trafficking. The course is designed for professionals with entry to intermediate-level knowledge about the topic of human trafficking and other related crimes. The course delineates the intricacies of human trafficking, distinguishing it from migrant smuggling, and provides an overview of the global trends and legal frameworks surrounding the issue. Additionally, it explores the vulnerabilities to trafficking of individuals in mixed migration

flows, state obligations in responding to trafficking, and victim-related issues including identification, principles of victim assistance, risk assessment, and repatriation.

The Prague Process Secretariat actively encourages state representatives and partners to seize this opportunity for capacity enhancement through remote learning. As of March 2024, the platform features five courses: [Labour Migration](#), [Identification and Profiling at the Border](#), [Return and Reintegration](#), [Integrated Border Management](#) and the latest addition [Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings](#).

The courses are accessible in both English and Russian, allowing participants the flexibility to revisit and tailor their learning experience to fit their individual schedules without the concern of losing progress. Upon successful course completion, participants are awarded a certificate. Access to all courses is granted upon registration on the platform. If you encounter any challenges with registration or course access, please feel free to contact [pragueprocess@icmpd.org](mailto:pragueprocess@icmpd.org).

## READING RECOMMENDATIONS

### ICMPD Migration Outlook 2024

Read in [English](#), listen to the [Podcast](#)

### ICMPD publication 'Extending temporary protection: It seems most viable, but is it?'

Read in [English](#)

### ICMPD hosts exchanges on the recovery of Ukraine and the future of temporary protection

Read [more](#)

### ICMPD publication 'Europe as a hotspot for global talent – Is it ready?'

Read in [English](#)

### ICMPD publication 'Carrots and sticks in migration cooperation: Three uncomfortable truths'

Read in [English](#)

### European Parliament regulation 'Establishing the Ukraine Facility'

Read [more](#)

### EUAA & OECD report 'Voices in Europe: Experiences, hopes, and aspirations of forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine'

Read in [English](#) or [Ukrainian](#)

### EUAA report 'Latest Asylum Trends 2023 – Annual Analysis'

Read in [English](#)

### Frontex and EUAM Ukraine strengthen cooperation

Read [more](#)

### Eurostat 'Citizenship granted to almost 1 million people in 2022'

Read [more](#)

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