

PRAGUE PROCESS QUARTERLY REVIEW



#45

APRIL-JUNE 2026

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to share with you the April-June 2026 edition of the Quarterly Review, covering a quarter marked by intensive policy discussions shaping the next phase of Prague Process cooperation.

As preparations for the 5th Ministerial Conference in Vilnius in 2027 are ongoing, participating states have been engaging in a structured dialogue on the future mandate of the Prague Process. The intergovernmental consultations that took place in March-May demonstrated the need to sustain the current thematic priorities, while also highlighting the need for more operational delivery and preparedness for an increasingly complex migration environment. Cross-cutting issues, including digital transformation, interoperability, institutional resilience and stronger analytical capacities, are emerging as common enablers across all areas of migration governance. The ongoing discussions on the future mandate of the Prague Process are also supported by the findings of the external mid-term assessment of the current Action Plan 2023-2027, that provides valuable insights into the Dialogue's achievements and future potential.

In parallel, the Prague Process continued to facilitate practical exchange among its participating states and partners. In April, discussions during the World Border Security Congress 2026 illustrated how rapidly evolving technologies, changing migration patterns and transnational security risks require integrated policy responses that combine innovation with institutional cooperation, professional capacities and respect for fundamental rights. The subsequent Workshop on Border Management Initiatives in the Prague Process Region reaffirmed the need for regional dialogue to translate international developments into national approaches that reflect the realities and priorities of participating states.

In June, the First Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting in Skopje allowed participating states to consolidate the outcomes of the thematic consultations and further refine the future Action Plan 2028-2032. Senior officials confirmed their shared commitment to the Prague Process as a flexible, state-driven platform capable of responding to evolving migration dynamics through practical cooperation, evidence-based policymaking and mutual learning.

Meanwhile, the Migration Observatory released new Practical Guidelines on enhancing anti-trafficking prevention through targeted, participatory and multilevel actions, translating research and good practices into practical recommendations for policymakers and

practitioners. Finally, the Training Academy continued to provide learning opportunities through its available e-courses, reinforcing institutional capacities across the Prague Process region.

We trust you will find this edition enriching and informative.

With best regards,

Prague Process Secretariat

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LOOKING AHEAD: UPCOMING PRAGUE PROCESS ACTIVITIES

- **15-16 September | Geneva, Switzerland**
 Thematic Component 4: Training Workshop on Asylum and International Protections (led by UNHCR)
- **September/October | Online**
 Towards the 5th Prague Process Ministerial Conference: Preparatory Online Consultation(s)
- **8 October | Online**
 Migration Observatory: Webinar on Mapping Skills Mobility Partnerships in Selected Prague Process
- **20-22 October | Istanbul, Türkiye**
 Thematic Component 4: Training Workshop on Asylum and International Protection for Judges with IARMJ
- **10-11 Nov (tbc) | Prague, Czech Republic**
 Towards the 5th Prague Process Ministerial Conference: 2nd Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting

INSIGHTS FROM THE WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS 2026 AND WORKSHOP ON BORDER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES IN THE PRAGUE PROCESS REGION

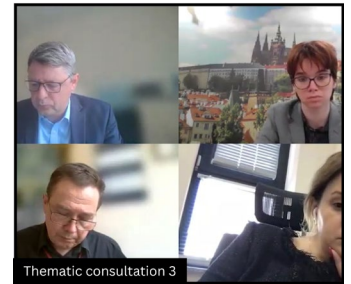
On 14-17 April, the Prague Process brought representatives from 13 participating states to Vienna for the 15th edition of the World Border Security Congress, followed by a tailored workshop on lessons learnt from regional border management initiatives. The events provided an opportunity to exchange experiences with international organisations and border management practitioners while translating global discussions into regional and national policy perspectives. Participants explored key priorities including Integrated Border Management, inter-agency cooperation, the use of modern technologies and digital solutions, and capacity building to address irregular migration and evolving cross-border threats. The discussions reaffirmed the importance of strengthening operational cooperation, enhancing preparedness, and ensuring that technological innovation is implemented alongside robust legal frameworks and the protection of fundamental rights.

Read more [here](#).



REVISION OF THE ACTION PLAN: MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS

Between March and May, the Prague Process held a series of intergovernmental consultations to shape the Action Plan 2028-2032 ahead of the 5th Ministerial Conference in Vilnius in January 2027. Bringing together participating states and partner organisations, the consultations reviewed progress under the current Action Plan, identified emerging migration trends, and discussed priorities for future cooperation. The exchanges highlighted the importance of strengthening implementation, digitalisation, operational cooperation, capacity building, and resilience, while addressing new topics such as artificial intelligence, crisis preparedness, skills mobility, and alignment with evolving European migration policies. The outcomes will shape the future mandate of the Prague Process.



Read more [here](#).

SENIOR OFFICIALS MET IN NORTH MACEDONIA TO DISCUSS ONGOING MIGRATION POLICY PRIORITIES AND TO SHAPE THE PRAGUE PROCESS ACTION PLAN 2028-2032

On 23-24 June, the Prague Process convened the First Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting in Skopje, bringing together representatives from more than 30 participating states, the European Commission, EU agencies, IOM, UNHCR and international partners to review and prepare the draft Action Plan 2028-2032. To advance preparations for the 5th Ministerial Conference in Vilnius in January 2027, participants exchanged perspectives on evolving migration trends, and discussed priorities including regional cooperation, resilience, preparedness, and the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. The meeting reaffirmed the Prague Process as a flexible platform for policy dialogue, practical cooperation, and evidence-based responses to shared migration challenges.

Read more [here](#).



RESULTS OF THE MID-TERM ASSESSMENT OF THE PRAGUE PROCESS



An external mid-term assessment of the Prague Process Action Plan 2023–2027 implementation has been carried out as part of the broader evaluation of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF). Conducted between December 2024 and November 2025, the findings recognise the Process as a highly relevant and valued platform for regional migration dialogue, highlighting its contribution to policy development, capacity building and cooperation among participating states and partner organisations. The assessment further acknowledges the Dialogue's ability to adapt to evolving migration priorities, especially in complex political contexts, foster trusted partnerships and support greater convergence with European migration standards, while identifying opportunities to further strengthen its impact in the lead-up to the Ministerial Conference 2027.

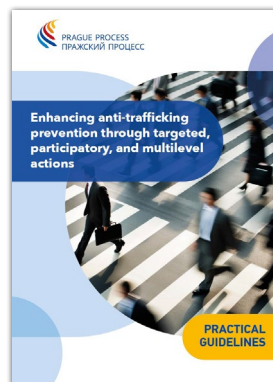
Read more [here](#).

MIGRATION OBSERVATORY: NEW PUBLICATION

The Migration Observatory continues to support informed policymaking by providing impartial, evidence-based analysis across the region and in line with the six thematic areas of the current Prague Process Action Plan. All publications are stored in the [repository](#).

Practical Guidelines 'Enhancing anti-trafficking prevention through targeted, participatory, and multilevel actions'

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



TRAINING ACADEMY: AVAILABLE E-COURSES

The Training Academy provides tailor-made trainings addressing the priorities set out by the Action Plan 2023–2027. Since 2021, the [e-Learning Platform](#) has served the participating states and partners with educational material for self-paced independent remote learning.



The platform offers the following courses: [Introduction to Migration Studies](#), [Combating Trafficking in Human Beings](#), [Integrated Border Management](#), [Labour Migration](#), [Identification and Profiling at the Border](#). It also provides access to the course [Holistic Approach to the Integration of Migrants and Refugees](#) (available in English).

We invite representatives of the [Prague Process states and partner institutions](#) to take advantage of this remote learning opportunity. Access to all courses is granted to eligible representatives upon [registration](#) on the platform.

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

European Commission: Report on the state of play on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum

European Commission: State of Schengen report 2026

European Commission: Report 'Barriers for European SMEs in recruiting workers from outside the EU'

European Parliament: Adopted common system for the return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the EU (Return Regulation)

Council of the European Union: EU enlargement – [Moldova](#) and [Ukraine](#) open first accession negotiations cluster

Council of the European Union: Provisional agreement on Return Regulationw

European Council: EU-Western Balkans Summit

European Council: EU-Armenia Summit

European External Action Service (EEAS): EU-Uzbekistan cooperation on migration

Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' Network (JHAAN): Joint paper on JHAAN activities related to Ukraine

FRONTEX: Irregular border crossings into EU decrease by 40% for January – May 2026

Eurostat: 2014-2025: Asylum and temporary protection trends

EUAA: Asylum Report 2026

EUAA: Data analysis of asylum applications by sex and age in 2025

EUAA: Country of Origin Information report on Belarus

European Labour Authority (ELA): Report 'The long-term care sector: Labour mobility and enforcement challenges'

The European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA): New Eurodac system enters into operations

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA): Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration – Edition 2026

European Migration Network (EMN): Report 'Statelessness in the European Union, Norway, Georgia and Serbia'

UNHCR: Brief 'The 'Risk of Absconding' under the EU Pact'

UNHCR: Global Trends Report

IOM: World Migration Report 2026

IOM: Report 'Regional Migrant Mobility Situation in the Western Balkans: Annual Report (January – December 2025)'

ICMPD: Vienna Migration Conference 2025 Report

ICMPD: Return and Reintegration Facility Policy Brief 'Beyond Procedures: How Multi-Level Governance Shapes Outreach and Assisted Voluntary Return Counselling at the Local Level'

ICMPD: Blog post 'Six ways to improve the mutual benefits of labour mobility'

Clingendael: Report 'Between War and Return: Scenarios for the Future of Ukraine and Its Refugees'

European University Institute (EUI): Report 'Local responses to large-scale displacement: Insights from Germany, Poland, and Türkiye'

Migration Policy Institute (MPI): Central Asian Migrants Look Beyond Russia, Yet New Destinations Carry Challenges Too

Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR): Report '10th Migration Observatory Report: Immigrant integration in Europe'

Centre for Research & Analysis of Migration (CReAM) at Rockwool Foundation Berlin: Report 'The Refugee Population in Europe in 2025: A Decade of Growth Comes to a Halt'



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