



Legend

- Connecting land routes
- Main connecting land routes
- - - Maritime routes
- Air routes
- [CIV] Country code (ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 code)*
- ★ Capitals
- Main migration hubs
- Coastal migration hubs
- Migration route cities
- ✈ Key airports
- Borders with most migration related apprehensions



Introduction

The Map on Illegal Migration Routes is being developed within the framework of the Building Migration Partnerships (BMP) initiative. The production of this Map has been further facilitated through an additional financial contribution from the government of Poland.

The Map at hand represents a step towards development of an interactive electronic database on migration flows between countries-parties to the BMP Joint Declaration, to the implementation of the principles of which the Map should contribute. The Joint Declaration on the principles and elements for promoting migration partnerships between the participating states from the European Union, Schengen Area, South Eastern and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Turkey was endorsed at the Prague Ministerial Conference "Building Migration Partnerships" in April 2009.

The Map

The purpose of this tool is to serve migration authorities by visualising the main illegal migration flows and migration hubs as well as the main border crossing points and the border sections most susceptible to be used for illegal migration from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to Central, Western and Southern Europe. This Map is mainly based on information contained in the latest editions of the ICMPD "Yearbook on Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe". In addition to that, sources such as from Europol, Frontex, Interpol and relevant EU bodies have been used. The information contained is not and cannot be exhaustive and efforts will be put into further development of this tool in close cooperation with the countries concerned.

Analysis of the Illegal Migration Routes

Main countries of origin represented in the illegal migration flows to Central and Eastern Europe include migrants from the Balkan countries (mainly Albania, but also Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) as well as migrants from the Middle East and Asia (Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan as well as Palestine and other countries). Migrants from the former Soviet Union countries usually come from Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova as well as the Russian Federation. Furthermore, apprehensions of migrants originating from Turkey show an increasing trend. The share of immigrants from African countries is comparably lower, except apprehensions of citizens from Somalia.

At present the main direction of illegal migration flows is still from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to Western and Southern Europe. The main migration routes include:

- The **Baltic route** transiting and/or originating in Moscow heading towards the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and/or Lithuania), continuing via Poland to the Czech Republic and heading towards Austria, Germany and other Western European countries.
- The **Central and Eastern European route** transiting and/or originating in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, continuing via Poland to Slovakia, Hungary and/or the Czech Republic and heading towards Austria, Germany and other Western European countries.
- The **Balkan route** transiting and/or originating in Turkey, continuing via the Western Balkan States and heading towards Italy, Austria and other Western European countries.

The **border sections** with most migration related apprehensions include the former external Schengen borders, the borders between Greece and Albania, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey as well as the sea borders and Crete. At the new external Schengen borders (since 21 December 2007) most migration related apprehensions took place between Latvia and Belarus as well as the Russian Federation; between Hungary and Romania, Serbia as well as Ukraine; between Poland and Ukraine; between Slovakia and Ukraine; and between Slovenia and Croatia. Outside the Schengen area the border sections with most migration related apprehensions include the borders between Bulgaria and Turkey; between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina; between Romania and Bulgaria, Moldova, Serbia as well as Ukraine; and between Ukraine and Moldova as well as the Russia Federation.

The current phase of the BMP initiative, funded by the European Union's Thematic Programme and running between January 2009 and December 2010, is jointly implemented by the Czech Republic (Ministry of the Interior), Hungary (Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement), Poland (Ministry of Interior and Administration), Romania (Ministry of Administration and Interior), Slovakia (Ministry of Interior) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

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Boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the Czech Republic (Ministry of the Interior), Hungary (Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement), Poland (Ministry of Interior and Administration), Romania (Ministry of Administration and Interior), Slovakia (Ministry of Interior), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the European Union.

This poster has been produced within the framework of the "Building Migration Partnerships" initiative. The migration routes displayed on this poster is the sole responsibility of the project partners in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and ICMPD and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

* Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. (KOS)