

Welcome message



Dear Friends of the Prague Process,
dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this issue of the Quarterly Review of the Prague Process on behalf of its Secretariat. The year 2017 was a year in which the implementation of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative finished in June, in which a reform of the leadership of the Process has taken place and at the end of which the Senior Officials had met in Warsaw to learn about the changes, agree on them and define the 3rd phase of the Prague Process

through which the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration will be implemented. After 7 years, Poland has stepped back from the leading role, making it possible for a collective leadership by a Strategic Group composed of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland, together with the European Commission, a seat reserved for the current EU Presidency, and ICMPD in its Secretariat function. As concluded by the Senior Officials' Meeting, the change is timely, the work continues and the Prague Process is evolving. The „marriage“ with the Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF), through which the DG HOME will fund the implementation of the Bratislava Declaration in 2018-2020 is part of the evolution. Let me wish you interesting reading during the winter season and Christmas holidays and Happy New Year 2018!



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Prague Process activities to be implemented in 2018

- **February-March:** 1st Research Coordination Meeting, Vienna, Austria
- **April-September:** Senior Officials' Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic
- **May-October:** 1st Workshop on Data Gathering and Exchange
- **May-July:** 1st Thematic Training of the Training Academy on Asylum/International Protection
- **September – December:** 1st Internship in the Migration Observatory East, Vienna, Austria
- **October-November:** Expert Mission to non-EU country

Activities implemented in 2017

- **3-5 April,** Study visit to Vienna, Austria
- **24-25 April,** Training workshop on irregular migration issues, Prague, Czech Republic
- **13 June,** Closing Ceremony of the PP TI, Brussels, Belgium
- **12 December,** Prague Process Senior Officials' Meeting, Warsaw, Poland

Senior Officials' Meeting in Warsaw

The Prague Process Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) took place in Warsaw on 12 December 2017, gathering 33 participants from 21 states, as well as ICMPD, IOM and UNHCR. Several registered participants, including representatives from Albania, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, ICMPD and the European Commission could not attend the meeting due to cancelled flights. In spite of the unforeseen absence of several speakers, most of the original agenda could be maintained thanks to securing some interventions per Skype and others shared beforehand in written order to be delivered by the Prague Process Secretariat.

The main objective of this SOM was twofold: To inform participating states on all relevant aspects with regards to the future implementation of the Prague Process in order for them to endorse the future structure and work plan; and to update participating states on the state of play with regards to the Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as well as on Refugees and collect their respective inputs and national policy priorities.

The messages on behalf of the European Commission, ICMPD, Poland and the Prague Process Secretariat addressed the key transformation features which will be driving the Process in 2018-2020. EC being the main donor of the process found a solution to sustain the main activities of the Process and its accumulated expertise for the coming three years. This new action will form part of the Mobility Partnership Facility and comprise of three main pillars:

1) The Dialogue function, being one of the key elements that would ensure that all participating counties and partners have a possibility to express their views and opinions; 2) The Migration Observatory; and 3) The Training Academy, as envisaged by the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration of 2016. The new phase called "Prague Process: Dialogue, Analysis and Training in Action" (PP DATA) should commence as of January 2018.

Poland reminded participants of its resignation from the post of the Prague Process leader and presented the new management structure - the Strategic Group - inspired by the assessment

of other ongoing migration dialogues, operating under a collective leadership rather than one single Leading State. The possibility to further adjust competences and composition of the SG according to the vision of participating states was underlined.

During the feedback session on the implementation of the third phase of the Prague Process, all participating states expressed their support and agreement to the presented structure, concept and activities. Some states expressed their readiness to provide for experts or host events. Various states reiterated on the need to avoid duplication with other ongoing initiatives and institutions across the region, including on the Global Compacts. Several non-EU states expressed the need to address the issues of labour migration as well as migration and development. The use of new technologies and innovative approaches was welcomed by a number of representatives. It was also clarified that there will be no obligation introduced for financial contributions on behalf of participating states.

The second working session focused on the Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees, which were presented by IOM and UNHCR, both of which play an important role in the preparation of the Compacts. The participants of the SOM were then invited to share those national migration policy priorities, which they would like to see addressed by the two Global Compacts. Several non-EU states elaborated on the key significance of the migration and development nexus, as well as the protection of migrant workers

and fight against trafficking, xenophobia and discrimination. Reintegration of returned nationals was another important common challenge. The need for stronger international cooperation was a common denominator among all participants. Several EU MS stated that they would foremost like to see the fight against irregular migration and human smuggling as well as the respective root causes and drivers addressed by the Global Compacts. The need for regular migration channels, decent work and the protection of human rights were equally highlighted in this context.

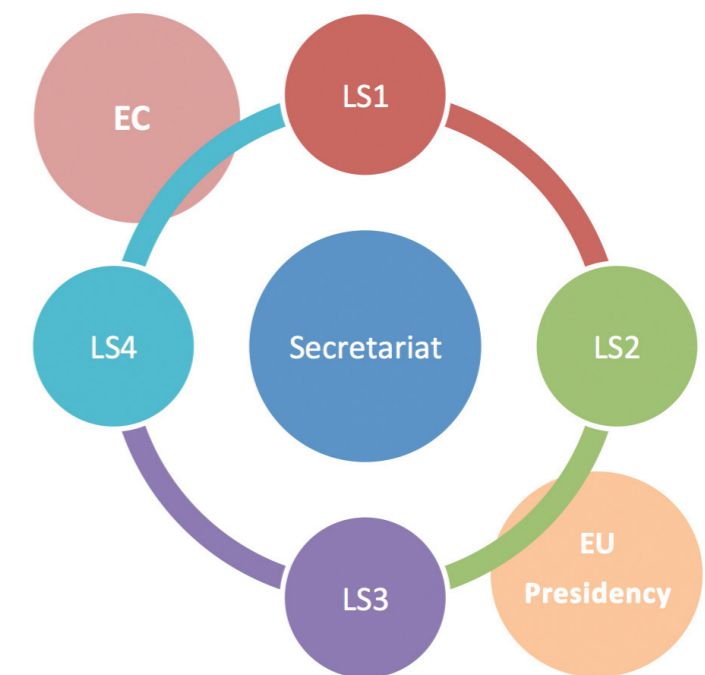
Receiving countries also underlined the significance of efficient readmission, return and reintegration policies.

The Prague Process, being an inter-governmental dialogue gathering 50 countries, is well placed to contribute to the global initiatives and their implementation. The future of the Prague Process depends on the level of activity and involvement of its participating states and the recent structural changes are timely and in favour of the evolution of the platform.

Collective leadership of the Process - a new mechanism to foster growth and development

After several years of implementation, framed by the Poznan Ministerial Conference in November 2011 and the Bratislava Ministerial Conference in September 2016 and after the end of the EU-funded Prague Process Targeted Initiative project (August 2012 - June 2017), Poland has decided to resign from its leading position and invited interested EU states to consider experience of other Processes (Budapest, Khartoum, Rabat) and establish a Strategic Group as a body setting the strategic direction of the Prague Process and preparing the ground for decisions of the Senior Officials' Meeting being the decision-making body of the Prague Process.

The Strategic Group of the Prague Process was thus established in autumn 2017 as a joint management body, composed of four EU Member States - the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland. The acting Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European Commission and the Prague Process Secretariat shall also be part of the Strategic Group. ICMPD will continue in its function of Secretariat of the Prague Process, which will be responsible for preparing SG meetings and for the follow-up to decisions and recommendations made by the Strategic Group.



The main responsibilities of the Strategic Group (SG) will be as follows:

- Preparing the ground and concrete documents for SOM decision on the main priority topics for the coming year, thereby ensuring strategic guidance of the Prague
- Promote the principles of voluntary basis, non-binding and non-political character of the Prague Process states' involvement and their participation on equal footing.
- Take stock of past achievements in terms of implementation and discuss actions envisaged for the upcoming implementation period.
- Contribute to the active promotion of the Prague Process as a key inter-governmental dialogue.
- Explore possibilities for funding or fundraising with the objective to carry out concrete actions in the interest of the Prague Process participating states.
- Ensure coordination with other platforms (e. g. Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum, Budapest Process, Almaty Process, Regional Consultative Processes platform) in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of activities.
- Agree on the Prague Process annual work plan and prepare for SOM decision. Whenever necessary, introduce modifications to the work plan as well as the format and topics of respective activities.

The SG will meet at least once but preferably twice per year with the aim to prepare the content of the annual Senior Officials' Meeting.

The New Prague Process Initiative: PP DATA

Already in the course of the PP TI project and then in the course of the PP TP project funded by the EC DG HOME, Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland in the second half of 2017, efforts were made to identify funding for the implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration. This resulted in a decision of the European Commission DG HOME to allocate funds for the Prague Process within the Mobility Partnership Facility as its component called "Prague Process: Dialogue, Analysis and Training in Action" (PP DATA). The allocated amount of 1,9 Million EUR will ensure partial implementation of the Bratislava Declaration in the years 2018 - 2020. In parallel to this, efforts shall be made to identify funding for and subsequently launch new thematic (pilot) projects, corresponding to the priorities of the Prague Process states agreed in 2016: fight against illegal migration, ensuring readmission, return and reintegration, and asylum and international protection.

The overall objective of the PP DATA project will be to build upon the achievements of all previous projects implementing the Prague Process and further enhance the cooperation in the area of migration and asylum between the 50 Prague Process participating states through targeted support for the implementation of the priorities set in the Prague Process Action Plan 2012-2016 and in line with the Declaration endorsed by Ministers during their Conference in Bratislava on 19-20 September 2016.

In line with the Ministerial Declaration, the following three specific objectives were identified for the future implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan:

Specific Objective I: to continue ensuring policy- and expert-level dialogue and targeted information exchange;

Specific Objective II: to maintain, update and further improve the Knowledge Base by establishing the Migration Observatory East, representing the first component of the Prague Process Training and Analytical Centre (TAC), hosted by ICMPD. The Migration

Observatory East will gather and analyse information in the form of analytical outputs while building upon the Prague Process Knowledge base concept in combination with academic approaches. All results and publications will be developed and published in English and Russian languages. The Migration Observatory shall serve as a laboratory for generating new cooperation initiatives within the Prague Process or other frameworks, such as the Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF) or for actions to be implemented as "Prague Process Umbrella" projects.



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Specific Objective III: to establish, maintain and update the Training Academy representing the second component of the Prague Process Training and Analytical Centre (TAC). The Training Academy will develop training materials and conduct trainings based on accumulated best practices and guidelines. All results, training materials and e-learning tool will be developed and published in English and Russian languages. The Training Academy shall equally serve as a laboratory for generating of new project and cooperation ideas.

The target groups of the Project are:

- 1) senior officials, practitioners and experts from ministries and immigration services of participating countries;
- 2) representatives of international organisations, academia and NGOs, potentially in selected areas also a broader public.

Final beneficiaries of the project are the migration services, asylum services, police and border guards of partner countries as well as academics and other as applicable.

All activities and progress of the action will be carried out, monitored and guided by a working group led by the Czech Republic with ICMPD support. The corresponding results will be presented to the Prague Process Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM), being the Prague Process decisive body, and to the Ministerial Conference foreseen for 2021. The SOM will monitor, guide, discuss and endorse the results of the action for all 50 Prague Process participating states.

To ensure the necessary balance and partnership approach, the project will also seek synergies with ongoing initiatives such as the integration process within the Eurasian Economic Union, the

Council of Heads of Migration Services of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Joint Committee for Fight Against Illegal Migration of CIS countries – parties to the Agreement on Fight Against Illegal Migration of 1998, Council of Heads of Border Guards Services of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Collective Security Treaty Organisation, IOM, UNHCR and the MARRI regional centre.

Coordination with other donors and initiatives will be ensured by consultation with all Member States participating in the action. In particular, the working group to-be established will seek information from EU MS, international organisations and other actors involved in the field and in the region on all related (planned or ongoing) projects and other initiatives. The role of the working group will be to provide strategic guidance to this action and in the particular context of donor coordination to align the action's activities with all other related initiatives and projects. In addition and in order to avoid the risks of duplication or overlap, Member States, actors and other stakeholders active in the process will be regularly kept informed about the progress of the action and the results achieved during its implementation.

The Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees



United Nations
Global Compact

On 19 September 2016, one day before the endorsement of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration, the UN General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, launching the joint work of the

international community on the global compacts for safe, orderly and regular migration and for refugees. The Prague Process as a regional inter-governmental platform is well placed to both engage in the preparatory work before the

adoption of the two compacts by end 2018, but also in their implementation, monitoring and review at regional level following their adoption.

What is the Global Compact on Migration?¹

The Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM) will be an agreement states make with one another. States have committed to completing it in time for another UN conference to be held in New York in September 2018, where they will formally adopt it.

While states have the final say (as long as they stick to the human rights obligations they have already made), other stakeholders “including civil society, scientific and knowledge-based institutions, parliaments, local authorities, the private sector and migrants themselves” will be able to contribute their views, opinions, and expertise to the process through a variety of different channels (see further details below).

The compact will

- ⇒ present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility,
- ⇒ deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration.

The Global Compact will not make new law, but its provisions must be consistent with states’ obligations under existing international human rights law and labor standards.

GCM Work Plan²

The work on the GCM is split into 3 phases. Phase I was devoted to the consultation process and lasted from April 2017 – November 2017. During this consultation phase, Member States had an opportunity to provide their inputs and share views on developing a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The consultations undertaken during Phase I fed into the preparatory stocktaking meeting and the preparation of the Secretary-General’s report under Phase II.

Phase II covers the period from November 2017 to January 2018 and is secured for the stocktaking activities. The outputs/ summaries of each event under Phase I will be shared with Member States for their consideration under Phase II, as they participate in the preparatory stocktaking meeting hosted by and held in Mexico in early December. During Phase II, the Secretary-General’s report as input to the zero draft of the global compact and the intergovernmental negotiations will be released. The preparatory stocktaking meeting and ensuing reports will help feed into the intergovernmental negotiations under Phase III.

Phase III of the process covers the period from February to July 2018 and is the final phase leading to the adoption of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Phase III will include the release of the zero draft of the global

compact ahead of the intergovernmental negotiations which will take place several days each month from February through July 2018. This Phase will also include the last two multi-stakeholder consultations.

What is the Global Compact on Refugees?³

UNHCR envisages that the Global Compact on Refugees will comprise two complementary parts:

- ⇒ The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, as agreed by Member States in Annex I to the New York Declaration, supplemented by preambular and concluding paragraphs;
- ⇒ A Programme of Action underpinning the Framework that sets out actions that can be taken—both by Member States and by other relevant stakeholders—to ensure its full implementation.

Work towards the Global Compact on Refugees is taking place in cooperation and consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, in a number of interconnected areas, including:

- ⇒ The application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework to specific countries or situations, including by drawing lessons from existing or past refugee situations;

⇒ Informal thematic discussions to identify the actions that are essential to the type of refugee response envisaged in the New York Declaration and thus inform the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the development of the Global Compact on Refugees;

⇒ Stocktaking to assess progress made, identify lessons learned, and lay the groundwork for the Global Compact on Refugees.

All of this work will be undertaken in accordance with the multi-stakeholder, ‘whole-of-society’ approach endorsed by the General Assembly in the New York Declaration that involves ‘national and local authorities, international organisations, international financial institutions, regional organizations, regional coordination and partnership mechanisms, civil society partners, including faith-based organizations and academia, the private sector, media and the refugees themselves’.

By February 2018 UNHCR will prepare a draft of the Global Compact on Refugees and formal consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders will commence. Following consultations, the Global Compact on Refugees will be presented in the High Commissioner’s 2018 Annual Report to the General Assembly.



¹ <http://gcmigration.org/2017/04/what-is-the-global-compact-on-migration>, (last checked: 27.04.2017)
² http://refugeemigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/work_plan_gcm.pdf
³ <http://refugeemigrants.un.org/refugees-compact> (last checked: 29.11.2017)

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