



PRAGUE PROCESS QUARTERLY REVIEW

#38

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2024

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the latest edition of the Quarterly Review, providing updates from the Prague Process for the period July-September 2024.

The key highlight of the past quarter was the Senior Officials' Meeting in Moldova, which marked the 15th anniversary of the Prague Process. This meeting provided a platform for reflecting on past achievements and setting future priorities, with senior officials addressing pressing challenges such as migration governance, the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, and the impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The meeting reaffirmed the strong commitment of participating states to collective action and policy alignment. This issue also features the message delivered by ICMPD Director General Mr. Michael Spindelegger during the Senior Officials' Meeting.

The Prague Process Migration Observatory continued to deliver in-depth research and analysis on key migration developments. The newly released fourth collection of selected publications 2023-24 covers ongoing migration trends and policy responses. Particular attention is given to the forced migration scenarios from Ukraine, emigration from Russia, and the integration of displaced populations in Central Asia. The book further addresses the role of modern technologies in migration management and the drivers shaping long-term migration trends.

This issue entails further recent outputs and activities of the Migration Observatory and Training Academy, including the updated country factsheets, the 11th International Summer School on Migration held in Georgia, and the latest training materials tailored to the needs of the participating states. They all underscore the Prague Process' commitment to enhancing knowledge, cooperation, and effective migration governance across the region.

We wish you an interesting read!

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LOOKING AHEAD: UPCOMING PRAGUE PROCESS ACTIVITIES

15-17 October | Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Thematic Component 1: Study visit to the Kyrgyz Republic

5-6 November | Luxembourg, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
EMN Luxembourg & Prague Process joint workshop 'Forecasting and new technologies in migration and asylum governance: state of play and new developments'

27-28 November | Tunis, Republic of Tunisia
7th International Border Management Conference

3-5 December | Prague, Czech Republic
Thematic Component 2: Training on reintegration

SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE PRAGUE PROCESS STATES CELEBRATE 15 YEARS OF COOPERATION

On 24-25 September 2024, the Republic of Moldova hosted the Prague Process Senior Officials' Meeting, commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Process. Gathering representatives from 26 participating states, the European Commission, European agencies, and international organizations, the meeting provided a timely opportunity to collectively reflect on the progress of the past decade and a half, while charting a shared course for the future.

The senior officials focused on three core areas of discussion: a retrospective on 15 years of cooperation and the path ahead; addressing the operational and strategic challenges posed by crises and conflict; and advancing the implementation of the 2023-2027 Action Plan. Each session underscored the strength of unity, resilience, and innovation that have defined the Prague Process since its inception.

Esteemed representatives shared their priority needs and reflected on the evolving policy landscape across the region with the greater alignment of national policies and legislation with EU standards, also promoted by the Prague Process. Most delegates highlighted the concrete benefits provided by the Prague Process over the past 15 years and reaffirmed their commitment to its future. Particular attention was devoted to the profound impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the pivotal role of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. These discussions highlighted the need to further enhance operational cooperation, adaptation, and collective action in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Read more about the meeting [here](#) and [here](#).



MESSAGE FROM MR. MICHAEL SPINDELEGER, DIRECTOR GENERAL, ICMPD

As ICMPD, we have the honour and the privilege to assist the Prague Process since its inception in 2009. As a secretariat, our role has always been to support the chairs, the participating partners and the EU institutions in their joint efforts. We have assumed this role with great pride and are very grateful for the trust you have put in us throughout the years. I want to sincerely thank you for that.

Since its beginning, the Prague Process was always clear about its direction and purpose. Today, and because of the leadership, the commitment and the support by the participating states and the European institutions, it is widely acknowledged as a mature and grown-up migration dialogue. It has frank but constructive discussions, but once the common goals are agreed, they are followed in a targeted, pragmatic and collective manner. And this seems to be the best possible way to achieve the best possible results.

And the Prague Process has demonstrated this ability during very challenging times. Since its inception, the Arab Spring, the war in Syria, the return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan and many other conflicts have multiplied the number of internally displaced, refugees and irregular migrants that try to reach a safe destination. It was about 40 million globally displaced in 2009, it is more than 120 million today. Closely related, the refugee crisis from 2015 stretched the capacities of many of the Prague Process states to their limits. And we still struggle with the political and operational consequences of that situation.

Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, that started in early 2014, made clear that peace and stability are also not guaranteed in the Prague Process region. The launch of a full-scale invasion in February 2022 led to the highest numbers of refugees in Europe since

the end of the Second World War, most of them hosted in Prague Process countries. More than ever before, the war in Ukraine showed that forced displacement and migration are closely interlinked with geopolitical conflicts, threats to security and the instrumentalization of migration in pursuit of broader political goals. We must assume that we will have to deal with these issues in the future as well, and we have to find ways to fully reflect them in our joint work on migration.

But we should also not forget that the Prague Process has made some very important contributions to the “friendlier” side of the migration agenda as well. It has covered a lot of ground to better promote labour migration, also as a way to cope with demographic ageing; to find ways to involve the private sector in migration policies and programmes; and to enhance our joint capacity on analysis and research to help us understand what is going on in the world of migration and what might happen in the future. One topic that will definitely occupy us in this regard is the implementation of the recently adopted EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. Also here, the envisaged objectives of the Pact require cooperation and partnerships beyond the borders of the European Union. And I am sure that the Prague Process can and will provide an important platform and network for this important task.

On behalf of the secretariat, I want to assure that at ICMPD we will do our very best to support you on the implementation of the Pact, on the implementation of the Prague Process Joint Declaration and Action Plan agreed at the Ministerial Conference in 2022, but also on addressing all other issues that might arise along the way. I want to thank you once more for the trust that you have put in us and wish you all fruitful and interesting discussions on the next important steps in the work of the Prague Process.



IMPRESSIONS FROM THE ICMPD SUMMER SCHOOL 2024

On 7-12 July 2024, ICMPD hosted the 11th International Summer School on Migration in Kachreti, Georgia, bringing together 55 participants from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Ukraine. The students delved into a wide range of migration topics, from international law and media perception to the economic impact of migration and governance strategies. Experts from top institutions like the University of Oxford, University of Sussex, and Maastricht University led interdisciplinary discussions on migration, asylum law, skilled migration, and future migration trends.

For more details, visit the Prague Process website [here](#).

MIGRATION OBSERVATORY: NEW PUBLICATIONS

Analytical Report ‘Migration in the context of climate and environmental changes in non-EU Prague Process states: Exploring vulnerabilities, policy gaps and available protection frameworks’

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

Policy Brief ‘The place for modern technologies in the integration of migrants’

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

Migration Observatory Selected Publications 2023-24

Preview and download the book in [English](#) or [Russian](#)



UPDATED COUNTRY FACTSHEETS: EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AND CENTRAL ASIAN STATES

This summer saw important updates being introduced to the country factsheets of [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), [Georgia](#), [Moldova](#), and [Ukraine](#) as well as [Kazakhstan](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Tajikistan](#), [Turkmenistan](#), and [Uzbekistan](#). This regular update is undertaken jointly with ICPMD and external experts.

The country factsheets constitute a concise and useful source of information on the migration situation throughout the region. They provide migration data from both national and international sources, as well as an overview of the key developments in terms of migration policy and legislation in each Prague Process state. The data from international sources is updated automatically as it becomes available. Access the interactive map [here](#).



TRAINING ACADEMY: UPDATES

State representatives and partner organisations are invited to access the Prague process [e-Learning Platform](#) for capacity enhancement through remote learning. The Platform contains six e-courses: Integrated Border Management, Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Labour Migration, Identification and Profiling at the Border, Return and Reintegration as well as Holistic Approach to the Integration of Migrants and Refugees. Upon successful course completion, participants are awarded a certificate. All courses (but for integration) are available in English and Russian.

Access to all courses is granted upon [registration](#) on the platform. If you encounter any problems, please feel free to contact pragueprocess@icmpd.org.

Upcoming e-course: 'Introduction to Migration Studies' by Prof. Ronald Skeldon

Available e-courses:



Integrated Border Management



Combating Trafficking in Human Beings



Labour Migration



Identification and Profiling at the Border



Return and Reintegration



A Holistic Approach to the Integration of Migrants and Refugees

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

European Commission: EU and Armenia launch Visa Liberalisation Dialogue

European Commission: Common Implementation Plan for the Pact on Migration and Asylum

Commission proposes Action Plan for cooperation with Western Balkans

European Parliament: Effective remedies for asylum-seekers at EU external borders: New pact on migration and asylum

National monitoring mechanisms under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: Guidance for EU Member States

EUAA presents Latest Asylum Trends for the first half of 2024

Frontex annual report 2023

Frontex annual risk analysis 2024/2025

Eurostat's Key data on the Dublin system in 2023

Eurostat-EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2023

ICMPD Policy Brief 'How fit is the available data on irregular migration for policymaking?'

ICMPD 'Guidelines for Integration of Migrants and Refugees in the Republic of Azerbaijan'. Read in [EN](#) or in [AZ](#)

ICMPD Policy Brief 'Mobility and labour dynamics after the EU Year of Skills: Are we fit for the future?'

ICMPD, PROTECT Factsheet 'Improving Migration Management and Migrant Protection in selected Silk Routes and Central Asian Countries'

Factsheet 'Migrant Resource Centres in the Silk Routes and Central Asian countries'

University of Turku, Finland: Return Migration of Ukrainians from The European Union to Ukraine, 2022-2024

University of Central Asia, Policy brief 'How War in Ukraine Has Shaped Migration Flows in Central Asia'

IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre 'Migration and Human Mobility: Key Global Figures'

IOM report: Return and Reintegration Key Highlights 2023

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