



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

As 2023 comes to an end, we take the opportunity to reflect on our recent work and share our aspirations for the coming year.

This issue focuses on the most recent Prague Process events and outputs, while also covering a few migration policy updates that will steer our work in the future. Although the world we live in is increasingly dynamic, uncertain and complex, the Prague Process continues to keep up with the pace and address the most urgent needs of its states as endorsed by the [2022 Ministerial Declaration](#) and laid out in the [Action Plan 2023-2027](#). Echoing the words of Henry Kissinger who once said that ‘each success only buys an admission ticket to a more difficult problem’, we remain confident that anticipated new challenges will bring growth and foster cooperation among the Prague Process partners.

This Quarterly Review starts with a message from Mr Martin Šustr, Head of EU Migration and Asylum Policy Unit, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, current Chair of the Prague Process, before diving into the most recent Prague Process activities, including the Study visit to BAMF, the Expert Workshop on Digitalisation, and the Kick-off Workshop on Readmission, Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration. In addition, this issue outlines the courses available on the Prague Process e-Learning Platform, provides a short progress analysis of the EU’s migration and asylum policy reform, and presents a snapshot of the Frontex Status Agreement with Albania, as well as a résumé of the 2023 Enlargement Package. Lastly, the Review offers relevant reading recommendations, including the latest research carried out within the Prague Process Migration Observatory.

We wish you an enjoyable reading, a peaceful holiday season and a smooth start to the New Year 2024!

Looking ahead: Upcoming Prague Process activities 2024

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| 30 January | ● | Online Policy Talk “Looking into 2024: What migration-related developments to expect?” |
| January | ● | Prague Process Strategic Group Meeting |
| 13-14 February | ● | Kick-off Workshop of the Thematic Component 1 on Irregular Migration (Budapest, Hungary) |
| March | ● | Workshop on Preparedness/Resilience (tbc) |
| March | ● | Online Consultation under the Thematic Component 2 on Return, Readmission and Reintegration (tbc) |
| April | ● | Kick-off Workshop of the Thematic Component 3 on Legal (labour) Migration (tbc) |

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Message from Mr Martin Šustr, current Chair of the Prague Process

Dear Partners and Friends,

On behalf of the Czech Republic, current Chair of the Prague Process, I would like to briefly introduce myself and update you on some important developments within our migration dialogue.

Following some internal rotation, it is my privilege to take over the Chairmanship of the Prague Process from my predecessor Mr Tomáš Hach. My objective is to continue his excellent work and build on the achievements to further strengthen our collaboration.

In October 2022, our Ministers endorsed a joint Declaration and Action Plan for the period 2023-2027, thereby launching the fourth phase of the Prague Process cooperation. Following the commitment of the Prague Process states, the Czech Republic presented a concept to facilitate the timely implementation of the Action Plan, which received the overwhelming support of the Senior Officials' Meeting held

in Lisbon in April 2023. Last summer, the European Commission agreed to provide funding for implementing the Prague Process Action Plan up until the end of 2027. On behalf of the Prague Process states, I wish to thank the European Commission for its financial support enabling us to further deepen our cooperation!

Our Action Plan calls for sustaining and expanding the three pillars of work – the Dialogue, Migration Observatory and Training Academy – while calling for additional specific actions to address existing and anticipated challenges. The Questionnaire disseminated to the Prague Process states a year ago identified their priority interests and future contributions to the Process. Its findings translated into the newly launched Thematic Components, aiming to address the priority needs of the member states. The fourth phase of Prague Process cooperation will entail further innovative elements such as the Digital Lab and Resilience Hub thereby

involving more operational collaboration including modern technologies, digitalisation and capacity building.

In this regard, I am also happy to share with you that the capacities of the Prague Process Secretariat at ICMPD have been strengthened, which will enhance the fulfilment of our joint ambitions.

I very much look forward to your active engagement in the fourth phase of the Prague Process cooperation and hope to greet you in person during one of the upcoming activities. For now, I wish you a peaceful holiday season and a good start to a successful new year.

With kind regards,

Martin Šustr

Head of EU Migration and Asylum Policy Unit
Department for Asylum and Migration Policy
Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

ICMPD Summer school took place in Azerbaijan

The International Summer School on Migration took place on 9-15 July 2023 in Azerbaijan, organized jointly by the Prague Process and the EU-funded project "Support to the Implementation of the Mobility Partnership in Azerbaijan" (MOBILAZE 2). This 10th edition of the Summer School targeted students from Ukraine as well as Ukrainians living abroad and students from Azerbaijan. Once again, it provided multidisciplinary and innovative academic and research-oriented lectures, seminars and projects on issues related to migration situations and migration policies in the EU, its Eastern neighbourhood and worldwide.



Study Visit to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of Germany

On 10-12 October 2023, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of Germany (BAMF) in Nuremberg hosted a Prague Process Study Visit. This visit constituted the first activity of Thematic Component 3 (Asylum), bringing together asylum practitioners, decision-makers and policy officials responsible for asylum from 13 countries. It provided a comprehensive insight into the work of the BAMF, including its legislative framework, institutional setting, operational practices and various innovative approaches to overcome the manifold challenges confronted.

Read more [here](#).



Expert Workshop on the Potential of Digitalisation in the Migration Context

Upon the invitation of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, the Prague Process organised the Workshop on the Potential of Digitalisation in the Migration Context in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 24-26 October 2023. The workshop gathered over 70 participants from 16 countries as well as the European Commission, EUAA, IOM, EU Delegation to Georgia, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and independent experts. It represented the first activity of the newly launched Prague Process Digital Lab, a designated area of work within the Prague Process Training Academy and Migration Observatory, which will explore digitalisation as a horizontal issue across the various thematic areas of the Prague Process Action Plan.

Read more [here](#).



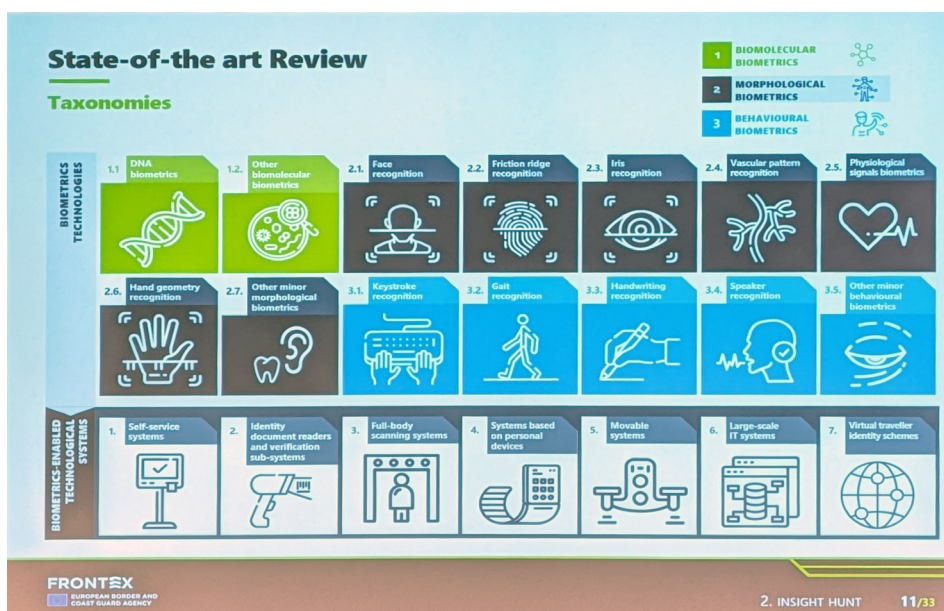
Kick-off Workshop 'Thematic Component 2: Promoting readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration'

On 7-8 November 2023, the Prague Process organised the Kick-off Workshop under the Thematic Component 2: Promoting readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration, in Tirana, Albania. The first activity on the topic gathered return experts from 19 countries as well as representatives from the European Commission, Frontex, IOM, ICMPD and JCP.

Read more [here](#).



Exploring Migration Forecasting: Insights from the EMN Luxembourg Workshop



On 7-8 November 2023, the Prague Process Secretariat had the honour to delve into the intricate world of migration forecasting during the EMN Luxembourg Workshop "Forecasting and new Technologies in migration and asylum governance: states of play and new developments".

Bringing together various experts and stakeholders, this effort aimed to enhance predictive capabilities in migration, shedding light on the complexities of policy implementation. From cutting-edge studies on biometrics by Frontex and the EUAA Analytical Framework to ongoing negotiations on the AI Convention by the Council of Europe and OECD's stance on anticipating migration flows, the workshop covered a spectrum of perspectives. Prof Dr Robert Harmsen, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences at the University of Luxembourg, set the tone by emphasizing the duality of policy instruments.

These instruments, both technical and functional, play a crucial role in shaping political power dynamics.

Country representatives from France, the Netherlands, and Norway shared their forecasting experiences, addressing challenges and emphasizing the need for flexibility. In many countries, forecasting involves both statistical modelling and expert knowledge allowing the development of several scenarios for consideration by policymakers. While forecasting migration flows related to labour or family migration is easier, anticipating forced movements is an A+ task. Moreover, forecasting results are often misinterpreted by policymakers who take the probability rates as fixed.

The panels also featured innovative projects, including the FLEE model by Brunel University London, an agent-based model for forecasting conflict-driven displacement, as well as the IT FLOWS Project, focusing on predicting migration using models and real-time data, including pull/push factors and risks of tension among migrants and receiving communities. The last two presentations of the Workshop shed light on the Migration Network Predictions, a model aiming to identify migration patterns by the University of Piraeus, and Data-Driven refugee support, an approach to understanding and addressing refugee needs, utilizing chatbots and scraping conversations

within Telegram groups to provide insights for both refugees and state officials, run by the University of Zurich.

The insights shared during the workshop contribute to ongoing discussions on refining policies, enhancing analytical frameworks, and developing effective strategies for managing migration in an ever-changing global landscape.

The 6th ICMPD International Border Management Conference gathered in Istanbul



On 6-7 December, the Prague Process joined efforts with other ICMPD-facilitated initiatives in organising the 6th International Border Management Conference in Istanbul. The conference, co-organised with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Türkiye, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and Directorate General of Border Management, gathered over 190 participants from border management agencies, as well as the representatives of donor and international organizations, academia, the private sector, and 15 ICMPD offices.

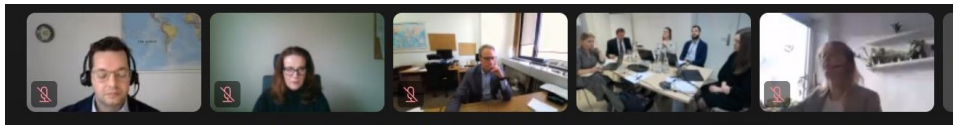
The conference featured three panel discussions addressing the operational capacity of modern border management.

It provided an overview of key developments supporting enhanced interoperability or harmonised approaches to apply border management measures. The participation of different regions and countries and wider geographic scope of the event allowed to exchange ideas with a view to identify common ground for cooperation.

The representatives of the fifteen Prague Process states attending the conference expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with the rich practical knowledge gained and the opportunity to exchange experiences with colleagues from the wider region.

Prague Process Secretariat meets GDISC Secretariat

On 12 December, the Prague Process Secretariat had the pleasure of welcoming representatives of the Secretariat of the General Directors' Immigration Services Conference (GDISC) in Vienna, who were joined remotely by the Czech Republic as the current Prague Process Chair and Poland as the GDISC Chair. Following the secretariats' first meeting in March 2023 in Nuremberg, they had an opportunity to follow up on their exchange, discuss possible synergies between the two intergovernmental platforms, and update each other on the latest activities and outputs as well as their plans for 2024.



The Prague Process e-Learning Platform: Available Courses

In 2021, the Prague Process Training Academy launched its **e-Learning Platform**, dedicated to providing educational resources for self-paced independent remote learning to the Prague Process states and partners. As traditional in-person learning faces limitations, e-learning tools emerge as a secure and effective alternative, offering professionals a convenient method to acquire, enrich, or refresh their knowledge on migration matters.

As of December 2023, the platform features four courses: **Labour Migration, Identification and Profiling at the Border, Return and Reintegration**, and the latest addition, **Integrated Border Management**. These 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. The

Prague Process Secretariat actively encourages state representatives to seize this opportunity for capacity enhancement through remote learning. If you encounter any challenges with registration or course access, please feel free to contact pragueprocess@icmpd.org.



The New EU Pact on Migration and Asylum – the structural response to current challenges

In June 2023, under the Spanish EU Presidency, Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs agreed on crucial legislation files stepping up efforts to finalize the EU migration and asylum policy reform. Interior ministers agreed on a compromise text of the proposals for the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR) and the Asylum Procedure Regulation (APR).

A key legislation file, APR establishes a common procedure for Member States to follow when granting international protection and introduces mandatory border procedures. AMMR, once agreed with the co-legislator, replaces the current Dublin regulation determining the member states responsible for asylum applications and proposes a new solidarity mechanism combining relocation, financial contributions, or alternative solidarity measures such as deployment of personnel or measures focusing on capacity building.

On October 4, EU member states representatives reached an agreement on the negotiating mandate on a regulation on crisis situations, including instrumentalization of migration and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum (Crisis Regulation) that represent the final component of the new Pact. Additionally, the European Parliament has linked the progress of ongoing discussions about Eurodac and screening regulations to the approval of the Council's negotiation mandate for the crisis regulation.

With the last legislation puzzle in place, the EU's New Pact on migration and asylum is almost complete. The Commission's 2024 Work Programme, adopted on 17 October 2023, declares that the Pact remains the structural response required for the EU to tackle migration challenges in the future while stressing the need to reach an agreement with the Parliament before the end of the current legislative term.



Frontex Status Agreement with Albania and its contribution to containing irregular migration

On September 15, the EU and Albania signed a new agreement on operational cooperation in border management with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) on the margins of the Berlin Process meeting of Interior Ministers in Tirana. Building on the EU's Action Plan on the Western Balkans and its operational measures, strengthening the joint operations, and FRONTEX deployments along the EU's

external borders with Albania should contribute to addressing irregular migration and enhancing the security at the EU's external borders. Under the new Status Agreement, FRONTEX Standing Corps officers could be deployed at the borders between Albania and its Western Balkans neighbours, also contributing to cross-border crime prevention and irregular migration management.



Reading Recommendations

Prague Process Perspective
'The Future of International Migration: what we know about the drivers that shape long-term migration trends and require policy responses'
by Martin Hofmann

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



Prague Process Policy Brief
'Digitalisation and labour migration: the use of modern technology, challenges and opportunities'
by Glen Hodgson

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



ICMPD Briefing Note
'Creative approaches to boosting the employment of displaced Ukrainians in Central and Eastern Europe?'
by Caitlin Katsiaficas, Justyna Segeš Frelak, Gizem Güzelant & Anna Piłat

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



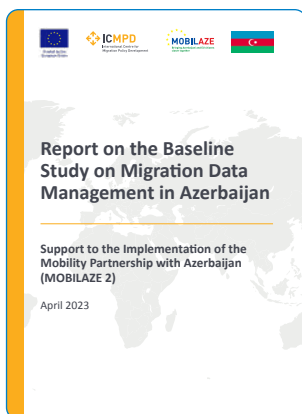
ICMPD Commentary
'Temporary protection: 18 months in force, 18 to go - and then?'
by Martin Wagner

Read in [English](#)



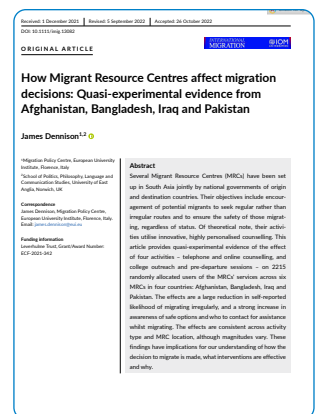
ICMPD Report
'Report on the Baseline Study on Migration Data Management in Azerbaijan'
produced by MOBILAZE 2 project

Read in [English](#)



Article by the EUI:
'How migrant resource centres affect migration decisions: quasi-experimental evidence from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq and Pakistan'

Download [here](#)

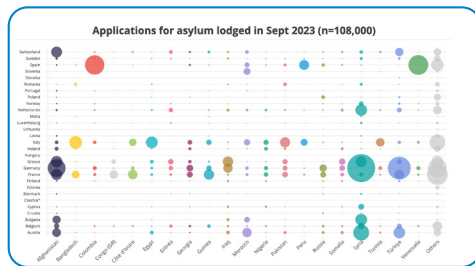


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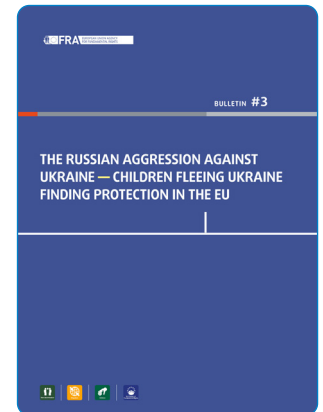
EUAA: Latest Asylum Trends in 2023

Read [here](#)



Report by the FRA 'Report on displaced children under temporary protection in the EU'

Read [here](#)



Austria's Statistical Yearbook 'Migration & Integration: numbers, data, indicators'

Download [here](#)



Austria's Expert Council for Integration 'Integration Report'

Download [here](#)



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