

## IN FOCUS

## What is the Prague Process?

The Prague Process is a targeted migration dialogue policy process promoting migration partnerships among the countries of the European Union, the Schengen Area, the Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Central Asia, Russia and Turkey.

The Process started by the Ministerial Conference in Prague in 2009 and it is based on and continues to further develop the results of the "Building Migration Partnerships" initiative (2009–2011). The Poznan Ministerial Conference in November 2011 reaffirmed the mandate of the Process and adopted the Action Plan for 2012–2016.

Prague Process Senior Officials Meeting  
Warsaw 2–3 April 2012

On 2–3 April 2012 the Senior Officials Meeting took place in Warsaw. The meeting was hosted and chaired by the Ministry of Interior of Poland. It gathered representatives of 33 countries and the European Commission (Directorate General for Home Affairs, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation), General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Frontex, ICMPD, IOM and UNHCR.

The SOM aimed at presentation of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative and its components consisting of continuous experience exchange via a network of National Contact Points, of continuation of development, updating and improvement of the existing Knowledge Base and of four thematic Pilot Projects. ICMPD, which supports implementation of the Prague Process and the Prague Process Targeted Initiative as the Organisational Support Team, presented the history and the future of the Knowledge Base, which can be found at [www.pragueprocess.eu](http://www.pragueprocess.eu) and will be also made available at [www.imap-migration.org](http://www.imap-migration.org). Concept Notes of presented activities were distributed among participants with the possibility to comment on them and to express states' interest to be actively involved.

The first half of the second meeting day was dedicated to a session on the Prague Process implementation structure, especially two communication and coordination mechanisms – the National Contact Points network and the Core Group. **National Contact Points network:** countries were invited to nominate two persons in their state administration, who would be the main contacts for all Prague Process related communication and who would coordinate with other relevant bodies on the national level. In the discussion on the **Core Group** establishment, it was proposed this group to be a support and advisory body for preparations of SOM materials and decisions, which would be composed of the most active Prague Process participating states keeping a regional balance in the Group. In the second half of the second day, an ad-hoc session on the current migration flows in the Prague Process geographical area was held.



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## Prague Process

## Action Plan 2012–2016

- Endorsed on ministerial level on 4 November 2011
- Covers 6 thematic areas
- Lists 22 concrete actions
- 4 pilot actions selected for implementation in 2012–2014
- EC confirmed funding of € 3M for the 4 pilot actions

## Prague Process Targeted Initiative “Support for the Implementation of the Prague Process and its Action Plan”

Following the 2nd Ministerial Prague Process Conference in Poznan in November 2011 and in relation to the Prague Process Action Plan 2012–2016 endorsed during this event, Poland, in a consortium with other six Leading States, will in the coming 36 months implement the action called “Support for the Implementation of the Prague Process and its Action Plan”. The European Commission has allocated 3 Million EUR for this action, which amount will be complemented with in-kind contributions from the Leading States and on a voluntary basis from other Prague Process participating states.

The action will be carried out jointly by Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden who jointly drafted the proposed initiative. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) will support the implementation of the project and its components via the Project Support Team.

**The overall aim of the initiative is** to enhance the cooperation in the area of migration and asylum between the states participating in the Prague Process through the support for the implementation of the Process and its Action Plan, **providing the partner states with an open, flexible and structured framework for consultations, capacity building and concrete actions. The action will be carried out based on the Prague Process principles of equal footing and voluntary participation in this intergovernmental platform.**

### **Pilot Project 1: Preventing and Fighting Illegal Migration**

**Leading states:** Poland (leader), Romania, Slovakia

**Duration:** 24 months

**Expected Results:**

- Handbook of Best Practices
- Prague Process Guidelines on concluding readmission agreements and organising migrants returns

### **Pilot Project 2: Legal Migration**

**Leading state:** Hungary

**Duration:** 27 months

**Expected Results:**

- Handbook of Best Practices
- Prague Process Recommendations on providing information to potential migrants

### **Pilot Project 3: Migration and Development**

**Leading state:** Czech Republic

**Duration:** 24 months

**Expected Results:**

- Prague Process Handbook on Circular Migration Policies

### **Pilot Project 4: Asylum and International Protection**

**Leading states:** Sweden, Germany

**Duration:** 18 months

**Expected Results:**

- Prague Process Guidelines on asylum procedures and training needs
- EAC module on Inclusion implemented in participating states

## BMP Knowledge Base: i-Map and Migration Profiles

Currently, the established knowledge base of BMP represented by a set of **Migration Profiles** and visualisations of other relevant information is accessible online at the interactive BMP i-map located on [www.pragueprocess.eu](http://www.pragueprocess.eu). Upon commencing of the PP TI, it is planned that the BMP i-Map will be transferred into the new user-friendly format available at [www.imap-migration.org](http://www.imap-migration.org), which along with the migration profiles presents new features, such as the *News Centre*. A data comparison tool is also under development and its test run is expected in 2012. The visibility of the Prague Process and reports from activities within the Targeted Initiative will be ensured via the official web-site [www.pragueprocess.eu](http://www.pragueprocess.eu), which will be further developed.

Work Plan for 2012		
<b>September, 2012</b>	<i>Kick-off Workshop/Round Table of the Asylum and International Protection Pilot Project</i>	<b>Stockholm</b>
<b>September, 2012</b>	<i>Kick-off Workshop of the Illegal Migration Pilot Project</i>	<b>Kiev (tbc)</b>
<b>September, 2012</b>	<i>Kick-off Workshop of the Legal Migration Pilot Project</i>	<b>Budapest</b>
<b>October, 2012</b>	<i>Kick-off Workshop of the Migration and Development Pilot Project</i>	<b>Prague</b>
<b>November, 2012</b>	<i>EAC train-the-training session on Inclusion</i>	<b>(location tbd)</b>
<b>November, 2012</b>	<i>Expert-level Workshop on Migration Profiles</i>	<b>Chisinau (tbc)</b>

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[pp@icmpd.org](mailto:pp@icmpd.org) serves as the main communication channel for any matters related to the Prague Process and BMP i-Map



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