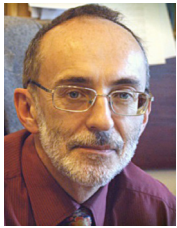


## Director's welcome message



Dear Colleagues, dear Friends of the Prague Process,

Following the tradition I would like to introduce you to the Prague Process Quarterly Review for the fourth time.

From the one hand, the first issue in the New Year focuses on the upcoming activities for 2015. We provide you with the preliminary outlook of our events that are planned for the next twelve months. From the other hand, we recapitulate on the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) that took place in Berlin on 28-29 October 2014. In my mind, the outcomes of this meeting laid the groundwork for our future actions and this is one of the reasons, why it seems to be important to understand the implications of the decisions made in Berlin. Therefore, we bring you the article of Mr. Matthias Ruete, the Director General of the Directorate General for Home Affairs, dedicated to the meeting, as well as the detailed overview of the outcomes of the SOM.

In this issue we would also like to present you a short article on the Knowledge base

and the subject of the workshop, which will take place in Lisbon on February 12, 2015 "Applied Knowledge in a Migration Policy Dialog: data collection, exchange, and application". I hope the discussion in Lisbon will be thought-provoking and fruitful. Last, but not least, I would like to present you information on the kick-off workshops in the two new Pilot Projects, that were launched in November 2014.

As I am writing these words in late December 2014, I would like to use this opportunity and wish you all the best for the new year of 2015. Thinking in the Prague Process terms the previous year was full of workshops, trainings, study visits and expert meetings. I hope that you found these events useful and interesting as much as I did. I am sure that 2015 will not be less productive than 2014, but it will even surpass it in this sense. Thus, I wish you a lot of energy, enthusiasm and success for 2015. On a personal note, I wish you and your families good health, a lot of joy and happiness!

Sincerely yours,

*Piotr Mierecki*  
PP TI Director

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## Preliminary outlook of the PP TI activities in 2015

- **22-23 January:** PP6 Kick-off Workshop on Legal Migration, Budapest, Hungary
- **26-27 January:** PP5 Kick-off Workshop on Illegal Migration, Warsaw, Poland
- **2-4 February:** PP7 Kick-off meeting on Asylum, Brussels, Belgium
- **12-13 February:** Workshop on the Knowledge base and migration profiles, Lisbon, Portugal
- **March:** PP7 1st Advanced Seminar (location tbc)
- **April:** 4th Core Group meeting, Warsaw, Poland (tbc)
- **May:** 2nd PP6 Workshop on Legal Migration/Migration & Development (possibly jointly with NCP Meeting on Migration and Development), a non-EU country (tbc)
- **May:** NCP Meeting on Migration and Development, (possibly jointly with 2nd PP6 WS), a non-EU country (tbc)
- **May:** PP7 2nd Advanced Seminar (location tbc)
- **June:** 2nd PP5 Workshop on Illegal Migration, (location tbc)
- **July:** Senior Officials' Meeting, Budapest, Hungary (tbc)
- **July/August:** Expert mission to Kazakhstan and/or Uzbekistan and/or Turkmenistan
- **September:** PP7 3rd Advanced Seminar, (location tbc)
- **September:** Study visit of Objective 2, (location tbc)
- **October:** PP5 Concluding Workshop on Illegal Migration, Bucharest, Romania
- **October:** NCP Meeting on Illegal/Irregular migration (possibly jointly with the Concluding PP5 WS), a non-EU country (tbc)
- **October:** PP6 Concluding Workshop on Legal Migration/Migration & Development, Prague, Czech Republic
- **November:** 5th Core Group meeting, Bratislava, Slovakia (tbc)
- **December/January 2016:** Concluding Workshop on migration profiles (location tbc)
- **December:** Senior Officials' Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic (tbc)



## Senior Officials' Meeting Berlin: reflecting on the outcomes for the future

At the occasion of the 5th Anniversary of the Prague Process, the Prague Process Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), which took place in Berlin at the end of October 2014, aimed at taking stock of the developments since the launching of the Process and initiated the discussion about its future.

Looking first at the achievements, not once was underlined the unique role and potential of the Prague Process, which contributes to the respective dialogue with neighbours of the EU. Through its number of concrete projects, the developed tangible results and the existing dynamics between experts from various countries, the Prague Process has established a basis for daily cooperation, whose practical implementation brings more added value than a mere declaration on the po-

litical level. As a best confirmation the activities and concrete results (i.e. Handbooks and Guidelines) of the four concluded Pilot Projects were presented by their leading states and endorsed by the SOM.

The success of the implemented Pilots served as basis for the development of the three new Pilot Projects, which were launched in November 2014. The topics of these Projects were identified through the answers to the disseminated prior to the SOM questionnaire on the priorities of the states. During the Berlin SOM the Prague Process participating states were reminded about the opportunity of participation in the new Pilots and were invited to express their interest to take active part in one or more of the Pilot Projects until 14 November 2014.

### The Final list of the Pilot Project's 5-7 participating states:

	Leading state/s	Participating states/observers/organisations
<b>PP5: Illegal migration</b>	Poland + Romania	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine
<b>PP6: Legal migration</b>	Czech Republic + Hungary	Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Portugal, Russia, Turkey
<b>PP7: International Protection and Asylum</b>	Sweden + Germany	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

Separately was raised the issue of cooperation on the Knowledge base, its improvement and implementation – a subject for a broader discussion on SOM level. The next SOM should intend to have a critical look at the methodology applied and discuss its expectations from the Knowledge base. Moreover, the issue of the newly endorsed Prague Process standards – the Handbooks and Guidelines – and the way how to implement their recommendations was also brought up. This should be the decision of the Ministerial Conference in 2016 and the possibility of establishing a training structure for dissemination of the findings can be one possible solution in this context.

The discussion of the Prague Process' future was, first and foremost, linked to the upcoming 3rd Ministerial Conference, which will be organised during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union and will take place in Bratislava in October 2016. The Ministerial Conference will aim at evaluating the Prague Process so far and ushering the new stage of joint cooperation. The topic of the Conference will be concretised and specified through joint work of all Prague Process states in a set of SOMs in Budapest (July 2015), Prague (December 2015), as well as in a country yet to be specified in spring/summer 2016 and a final one on the eve of the Ministerial Conference in Bratislava in October 2016.

The evaluation of the Prague Process and the achievements reached so far is perceived as one of the main challenges

for the upcoming year 2015. It should take into account variables of accountability, planning, improving and utilisation of the gained knowledge. As a result such an assessment should serve to align the Process to the expectations of its participating states, while the Process should move forward, operationalise and response to actual problems. In accordance with the Terms and Reference and the Road Map towards the 3rd Ministerial conference, which were presented in Berlin and endorsed by the SOM, the results and recommendation of the evaluation should be ready to be presented in December 2015 during the SOM in Prague.

At the same time, the evaluation outcomes should be used as input for the development of a future Prague Process programme document to be adopted during the 3rd Ministerial Conference. The format and scope of this document should be discussed and more precisely formulated during the next SOMs preceding the Ministerial. Furthermore, the evaluation should help to improve the implementation of the Action Plan 2012–2016 and, finally, its conclusions should be used in future actions of the Prague Process. In the end, the Ministerial Conference will be introduced to the results of the evaluation process and will decide about the future of the Prague Process.

Therefore, the year 2016 should be perceived as a significant and symbolic year for the Prague Process, in which the Process should gain new impetus and energy to look for solutions and ways to discuss matters of mutual interest. ■

## Mr Matthias Ruete: “What added value the Prague Process brings to an already complex environment?”



*Ms. Monika Prus, Director, Migration Policy Department, Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Poland (on the left), Mr. Matthias Ruete, Director General, DG HOME, European Commission (on the right).*

At the end of October last year, I was invited to participate in the Senior Officials Meeting in Berlin. Being new to this policy area, I asked my colleagues what is this Process about? What makes it relevant for our political or operational priorities? And what added value it brings to an already complex environment?

I received two answers: it brings together a unique mix of 50 countries in the Union and its neighbourhood; and it brings them together around very concrete and operational topics that aim to increase convergence of our migration and asylum policies.

The Prague Process celebrates its 5-year anniversary. 5 years is enough to assess its progress and today reflect on the achievements. A good number of projects have been completed since 2009, ranging from legal migration, irregular migration, development and asylum. The end-results are tangible: guidelines and best-practices were elaborated and exchanged, know-how was passed among peers, and new professional connections were established. Dynamics between the experts from the EU and their Eastern and South-Eastern partners have developed into durable partnerships.





*Mr. Matthias Ruete, Director General, DG HOME, European Commission (on the left), Mr. Grzegorz Karpiński, Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Poland (in the centre), Mr. Norbert Seitz, Director General, Department of Migration, Integration, Refugees and European Harmonisation, Ministry of the Interior, Federal Republic of Germany (on the right).*

I understand that Prague Process cooperation also helps to establish links for daily cooperation among the migration experts of the Eastern and South-Eastern countries. That is often more relevant than formalised agreements.

I am aware that the Eastern and South – Eastern EU neighbours have made significant progress in aligning their migration management and control systems with EU standards, in great part thanks to this Process.

Last but not least, for me the most important achievement – going back to what I said earlier – is the fact that you have done all this in a spirit of mutual benefit, despite the political challenges that are present in certain regions. This is truly a benefit. We should not forget that migration challenges concern all of us, whether we are countries of origin, transit or destination. The balance and the accents may be different but we all want prosperous societies, freedom to move and security at our borders. If we want to unleash the potential of migration, we need to do our utmost to remove barriers for human mobility – mobility which our society and economy need in order to flourish. This is the priority for the new European Commission and we will continue to champion this stance.

There is a need to develop a credible and effective labour migration policy among the Eastern and South-Eastern part-

ners of the Prague Process. Active dialogue between business, trade unions, and public authorities on labour migration should be encouraged in order to better identify needs as you will become yourselves more and more attractive for migrants.

Europe stands as living proof of how greater mobility can contribute to prosperity and growth. This experience bears important lessons for Eastern and South-Eastern neighbours of the EU that are now often beginning to experience large-scale migration and are looking for promising avenues for socio-economic development.

To summarise, I think the Prague Process has proved to be an effective framework for coordination and promotion of operational cooperation on migration issues between the EU and the Eastern and South-Eastern neighbours.

The Senior Official Meeting in October last year was the beginning of the discussion that in the coming months will determine what is good and what needs adjusting in the Prague Process. My experience of this event makes me think that this exercise will be accomplished successfully.

*Mr Matthias Ruete,  
Director General of the DG HOME*

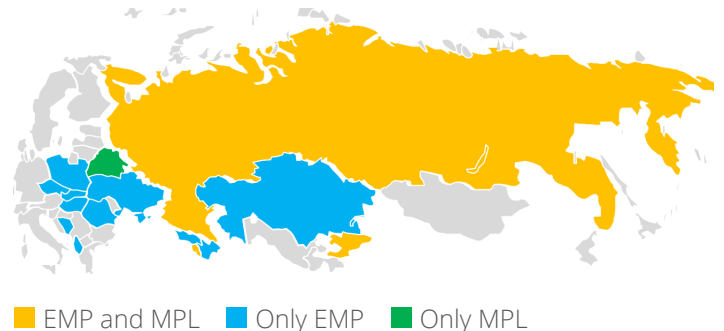
## Prague Process Knowledge Base: Applied Knowledge in a Migration Policy Dialog

Sound decision-making requires reliable data. The question remains as regards where to obtain the latter. To discuss how exactly this question, representatives of migration authorities of some Prague Process countries, as well as international organisations and research centres will meet and exchange ideas in Lisbon on February 12, 2015. *Applied Knowledge in a Migration Policy Dialog: data collection, exchange, and application* constitutes the main theme of the meeting, which is led by Poland, hosted by Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service, and organised by the Prague Process team of the IC-MPD. To follow up on the policy-relevant discussion, a visit to the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service on February 13, 2015 is organised for an applied, hands-on, experience at the various departments in this key migration agency of Portugal.

The discussion will take off in the belief that the gathering, processing and sharing information related to migration have constitutes the main tasks of the migration authorities in all participating countries. To render this complex set of tasks more manageable, the Prague Process team offers unreserved support to all countries, who participate in the initiative. The result of these mutual efforts is the existence of a continuously updated Knowledge base, which should offer a 'snapshot' of the migration situation in a given country in the form of migration profiles, visualisations, and overviews of media coverage of information related to migration in a given country, as well as in the region and in the world generally.

The dissemination of the obtained knowledge is carried out by means of an IT-based information exchange tool, available at [www.imap-migration.org](http://www.imap-migration.org).

As with any initiative, questions arise as regards the ownership of such comprehensive tools as individual migration profiles for each respective country, given the multitude of state agencies involved into the process of drafting, finalising, and updating the profiles, and, also importantly, whether the endorsement is desirable yet optional, or mandatory – prior to the publication on the PP web-platform? Furthermore, we will ask, and we invite you to share your views, what can be done to improve the tool to better meet the expectations of the participating states in achieving what we all aim at – constructive, focused, and productive migration dialog, based on easily accessible, verifiable, and up-to-date data.



As of today, the results are as follows:

Extended Migration Profiles (15)	Migration Profiles Light (8)
Albania (2010)	<b>Armenia</b> (2013; submitted to migration authorities in May 2014, input/approval pending)
Armenia (2011)	<b>Belarus</b> (2013; submitted to migration authorities in March 2014, input/approval pending)
Azerbaijan (2010)	<b>Germany</b> (2013)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013)	<b>Hungary</b> (2014)
Czech Republic (2010)	<b>Kazakhstan</b> (2013; submitted to migration authorities in November 2014, input/approval pending)
Georgia (2011, updated in 2013)	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b> (2013; submitted to migration authorities in April 2014, input/approval pending)
Hungary (2010)	<b>Russia</b> (2013; submitted to migration authorities in March 2014, input/approval pending)
Kazakhstan (2010)	<b>Tajikistan</b> (2013; submitted to migration authorities in July 2014, input/approval pending)
Kyrgyzstan (2011)	<b>Uzbekistan</b> (in progress)
Poland (2010)	
Romania (2010)	
Slovakia (2010)	
Tajikistan (2010)	
Ukraine (2011, updated in 2013)	

## **Kick-off Workshop, Pilot Project 6: Legal Migration: “Enhancing the cross-border mobility of students”, Budapest, 22-23 January 2015**

In January the Hungarian Ministry of Interior will be hosting the Kick-off Workshop of Pilot Project 6 (PP6) of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative. This 1,5-day meeting, organized by the PP6 Leading States – Hungary and the Czech Republic – will gather representatives of the 12 participating countries.

The aim of the Workshop is to first introduce, discuss and jointly agree on the structure, work plan and envisaged outcomes of the newly launched Pilot Project. Participants shall then look into some central issues for consideration when it comes to international student mobility in order to set the framework for our further discussions. These issues should also be re-

flected in the PP6 questionnaire, a draft version of which will be presented and discussed among the participating states. Their respective answers shall then serve as a central reference point for the remaining two PP6 workshops.

The workshop shall then also take a first look into the current state of affairs in managing cross-border student mobility, both across the regions and individual countries involved. The aim of this exercise is to receive a first overview and possibly already identify joint challenges as well as some good practices in addressing them. ■

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## **Kick-off Workshop, Pilot Project 5: Illegal Migration: “Establishing identity and/or nationality of irregular migrants”, Warsaw, 26-27 January 2015**

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Poland as the Leading State of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative will be hosting the Workshop I of the Pilot Project 5 on Illegal Migration which will take place in Warsaw on 26-27 January 2015.

The Pilot Project 5 is being implemented jointly by Poland and Romania since November 2014. Its aim is to strengthen capacities of the participating states in the field of combating of illegal migration through the transfer of knowledge and best practices on establishing identity and/or nationality of irregular migrants.

Workshop I in Warsaw will be mostly focused on Prague Process state's experiences on establishing identity and/or na-

tionality of irregular migrants. In addition, bearing in mind an impact of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union on national practices regarding, among others, fighting irregular migration, judgments of the Tribunals referring to the above-mentioned issues will be analysed. It is expected that participants from 18 Prague Process countries will join the Workshop (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo (this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence), Kyrgyzstan, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine) as well as representatives of international organisations. ■

### **Contacts:**

**Ms. Marika Kosiel-Pająk** – Prague Process Targeted Initiative Coordinator  
Ministry of Interior of Poland, e-mail: [marika.kosiel@msw.gov.pl](mailto:marika.kosiel@msw.gov.pl)

**Mr. Radim Zak** – Prague Process Coordinator, ICMPD  
e-mail: [radim.zak@icmpd.org](mailto:radim.zak@icmpd.org), [ppti@icmpd.org](mailto:ppti@icmpd.org)

