

EDITORIAL

The third quarter of 2018 saw migration addressed from various angles across the Prague Process region and beyond:

The Ministerial Conference “Security and Migration – Promoting Partnership and Resilience” held in Vienna within the Austrian EU Presidency focused on particular aspects of police cooperation and comprehensive migration systems in the Western Balkans. At their Summit in Dushanbe, the Heads of State of the CIS countries discussed irregular migration and human trafficking issues.

Meanwhile, the Summer School organised within the ENIGMMA and MOBILAZE projects gathered students and young professional from Georgia and Azerbaijan in order to approach migration from a developmental perspective.

Finally, the second edition of the so-called Migration Media Award recognised excellence among journalistic pieces dealing with all aspects of migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region, highlighting the need for objective reporting on migration. This need is also recognised in Armenia where the “Suitcase” journalism contest on migration issues is organised on an annual basis. We are eager to see who this year’s winners will be!

This Quarterly Review will take a closer look at these events while also providing further updates from the Prague Process region!

Have a good read!

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Looking ahead: upcoming Prague Process activities

- 7-14 November 2018 ● **MO & TA** Expert Visit to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan
- 27-29 November 2018 ● **TA** Training on Trafficking in Human Beings, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 17-18 December 2018 ● **D** Senior Officials' Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic
- January/February 2019 ● **MO** Research Coordination Meeting
- February-May 2019 ● **MO** Internship in the Migration Observatory
- 5-7 March 2019 ● **MO & TA** Study Visit to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of Germany
- April 2019 ● **TA** Thematic Training on Integrated Border Management, Return and Forced Return Monitoring, Ukraine

MO - Migration Observatory
TA - Training Academy
D - Senior-level Dialogue

Migration and Security among the topics addressed at the highest level within Austrian EU Presidency

On 13-14 September 2018, the Austrian Ministry of Interior hosted the Ministerial Conference “Security and Migration – Promoting Partnership and Resilience”, organised under the Austrian EU Presidency. The first day focused on the cooperation with the Western Balkan states and Moldova, featuring discussions on asylum, migration, border management, police cooperation and information exchange. It culminated in the signing of a Prüm¹-like Agreement on automated exchange of DNA, fingerprint, and vehicle registration data between Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Austria. The original Prüm Declaration of 2005 (becoming part of the EU acquis in 2007) improved information exchange between the EU member states, thereby helping to solve thousands of serious crimes. The new agreement seeks to expand the EU standards for police cooperation to the Western Balkan states and Moldova, contributing to their current EU accession efforts.

The [ICMPD Expert Voice](#), published at the occasion of the conference, recom-

mends prioritising the establishment of comprehensive migration management systems in the Western Balkans. Measures of border management, migration-related crime prevention and the protection of migrants’ human rights, work best when integrated into sustainable and solid migration management systems.

On 19-20 September, EU leaders convened in Salzburg at the Informal Summit of Heads of State or Government to jointly address the issues of internal security, migration and Brexit. The opening working dinner served the discussion of the latest developments in the area of migration. Three years after the culmination of the crisis, the arrivals on the three main migratory routes decreased by 92%, reaching lower levels than before 2015.

Strengthening the European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) and stepping up the fight against all forms of cyber-crime, manipulations and disinformation were among the security topics discussed. Frontex has so far signed bilateral agreements on cooperation with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,

Serbia, and Albania, allowing the agency to intervene on their territory. In his address at the Summit, Donald Tusk emphasised the importance of cooperation with third countries, which, in his view, should not be reduced to migration or fighting smugglers and traffickers, but constitute a much broader vision of partnership. He also acknowledged that this cooperation warrants further discussion regarding national sovereignty and the size of Frontex.

More on the Ministerial Conference: <https://www.eu2018.at/latest-news/news/09-13-Westbalkan-Konferenz-Pr-m-Abkommen-f-r-S-dosteuropa-unterzeichnet.html>

More on the Informal Summit: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/36431/background-brief-informal-salzburg.pdf>

ICMPD Expert Voice: <https://www.icmpd.org/news-centre/news-detail/expert-voice-on-the-occasion-of-the-conference-on-security-and-migration-promoting-partnership-a/>



Photo Credit: Michael Gruber/ Source: <https://euobserver.com/beyond-brussels>

1. Prüm Convention is an agreement on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism, cross-border crime and illegal migration between the EU Member States. The agreement was initially signed by Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Austria on May 27, 2005 in Prüm, Germany.

International security and economics among the priority topics addressed during the Summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States

On 28 September 2018, the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, hosted the Summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The attending Heads of States exchanged their views on the most pressing issues and challenges, mutually agreeing on further intensifying the cooperation within the organisation. More concretely, multi-lateral agreements were prepared in the following policy areas: enhancing international security, free trade and services, innovative cooperation, development of the intellectual property market, cooperation in the customs field, education, and youth policy.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is formed by nine former Soviet countries – Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with Turkmenistan being an associate member. Ukraine, as one of the founding countries, did not ratify the CIS Charter.

The issue of international security, which has also figured among the priorities of the Austrian EU Presidency, featured prominently at the CIS Summit. The parties endorsed documents stipulating a closer political cooperation in the humanitarian and security fields, as well as a number of projects aimed at improving the legal and organisational framework for future CIS activities. Several concrete proposals to counter new challenges and threats were announced during the Summit. These included the Interstate Program for Joint Measures to Combat Crime throughout 2019-2023. Emomali Rakhmon, President of Tajikistan, encouraged the Parties to focus on combating irregular migration and human trafficking, while also highlighting the importance of data protection and actions countering cyber-crimes.

The Summit further addressed the need to strengthen the economic cooperation among the Parties and eliminate remaining trade barriers within the CIS. In

particular, the widening of mutual settlements in national currencies shall contribute to replacing the US dollar as the main transaction currency in the region, while also having a positive impact on the transfer of remittances.

Social and youth policies also featured prominently during the 2018 CIS Chairmanship of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Heads of States committed to concrete activities in terms of humanitarian cooperation throughout 2019-2020, targeting the youth in general, as well as disabled people, orphans and children from large families in particular. Finally, the Summit also provided an opportunity for the Presidents of Tajikistan and Russia to enhance the bilateral cooperation in the educational sphere, including the opening of Russian schools in Tajikistan.

The next Summit of the CIS Heads of State will be held under the Chairmanship of Turkmenistan on 11 October 2019 in Ashgabat.



Photo Credit: kremlin.ru

The annual ENIGMMA 2 & MOBILAZE Summer School welcomed students from Georgia and Azerbaijan



The week-long intensive training course covered a variety of topics starting with the key migration terms and concepts, looking at the economic and legal implications of migration on hosting and sending societies, reflecting upon the role of media in shaping public debates and policies on migration, and going into practical areas such as data collection and data visualisation.

Students engaged into formal lectures and workshops but also had a chance to express their own views and concerns in open debates and round-table discussions. Moreover, throughout the week all students were working on research projects, the results of which were presented on the final day. Apart from educational activities, the program also accommodated cultural evenings, thematic games and field trips, fostering team building.

The Summer School thus represents a unique effort to educate youth from Georgia and Azerbaijan on migration matters and supply them with the right tools in their ongoing or future studies and carrier developments. As one of the Summer school lecturers, Robert McNeil, Deputy Director of the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford, underlined: "Migration is the defining issue of our time. Both Azerbaijan and Georgia face opportunities and challenges because of this, from

economic development to migrant integration, as well as dealing with emigration issues. The young people we have been teaching can play a critical role in ensuring that both countries develop the best migration practices they can in the future."

The next edition of the Summer School will be organised in Georgia in July 2019, this time also opening its doors to youth from the Prague Process non-EU states.

Download press release here:
https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/MOBILAZE/Summer_School_Press_Release_ENIGMMA2.pdf

Watch the conference video here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPIDi_Nqk2Y

More information about the MOBILAZE project can be found here:
<https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/regions/eastern-europe-and-central-asia/ongoing-projects/mobilaze-support-to-the-implementation-of-the-mobility-partnership-with-azerbaijan>

More information about the ENIGMMA project can be found here:
<http://www.enigmma.ge/about>



Engaging the youth: Interview with Ms Violeta Wagner, Senior Project Manager, ICMPD

Over the past 2 years, the EU has been paying more attention to its work and engagement with youth. In May 2018, the European Commission put forward a renewed EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, aiming to engage, empower and connect young people, representing the future of Europe. Development of young people's skills has also been set as one of the 20 deliverables for 2020 under the Eastern Partnership agenda. To get more insights on the work with youth and the Summer Schools, organised by the ENIGMMA 2 and MOBILAZE projects, we interviewed Ms Violeta Wagner, Senior Project Manager at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), leading the projects in Georgia and Azerbaijan.



Many projects implemented by ICMPD target expert- and senior-level representatives of national migration authorities. What were the main considerations behind the idea to broaden the target groups and start to implement Summer Schools for students, young graduates and professionals?

The first ever Summer School implemented by ICMPD was organised within the “Building Training and Analytical Capacities on Migration in Moldova and Georgia” project, which was co-funded by the European Union and implemented in 2011 – 2013. The short name of this initiative - GOVAC - reflected its main objective – to develop cooperation and partnership between Government and Academia on migration issues in both project countries. The project aimed, on the one hand, at supporting academic and applied research in the field of migration and making the research findings applicable for policy development; and on the other hand, at helping Georgia and Moldova to develop migration training programmes for state servants and academic curricula for universities. During the project duration, it was impossible to pilot the curricula fully, therefore, the summer school on migration research was chosen as an additional tool to further engage both academics and students to work on migration issues. However, we soon realised that the Summer School itself was a valuable activity because it allowed reaching out to students who otherwise would not receive lectures provided by international experts, and engaging them into fascinating discussions on multidisciplinary aspects of migration. Further, we implement very specific summer schools – we look at migration from the perspective of different academic disciplines, such as law, journalism, economy, demography, other social and political sciences. Let me give you an example: at the university, we usually learn subjects (law, economy, political sciences, journalism, etc.); at our summer school we teach a topic of migration and how it is related and reflected in different subjects.

Why is it important to work with young people?

We often hear the phrase that “Children are our future”. Though it sounds a little bit of a cliché, it is true, even if we

talk about young adults and not really children anymore. Today's students will be tomorrow's state servants at state migration services, working on migration topics at NGOs or international organisations, journalists writing about migration, or economists analysing impact of migration on a country's economic development. However, even if our Summer School participants will not dedicate their future professional careers to migration, the importance of this phenomenon is growing together with globalisation of our world, and today migration has a direct or indirect impact on many different aspects of our lives.

What do summer schools mean for the professional development of your team?

A lot! So far, we have implemented five Summer Schools within different projects. The agenda, lectures, workshops, additional exercises, projects and even the extracurricular activities have significantly changed over the years. Only this demonstrates that our team also becomes more professional every year! We are much better equipped with facilitation, training and implementation of experimental and inter-active activities. We also learned how to set up educational objectives and analyse their achievement. Finally, cooperating with a team of prominent lecturers significantly increased our own knowledge on migration. I can only add that we are now ready to include interdisciplinary migration summer schools into the methodology of other ICMPD projects and share our related experience.

Every year, you invite almost the same group of lecturers to take part in the Summer School. What are the benefits of such approach? Don't you worry that the experts may perceive this exercise as a routine?

We do have an excellent team of experts engaged in our Summer Schools. We work with universities of

Maastricht, Oxford, Sorbonne, Amsterdam, Cambridge, Vienna, and Vilnius. Even though we have somebody new joining us every year, the core team is so strong and so well built that the “newcomers” feel immediately fully integrated and supported. These are the most obvious benefits of such long-standing cooperation: the professors are familiar with us, our methods, our work standards and strive for quality;

and we know and trust them. There is never routine in our Summer Schools! The students are always new, and it is a two-way street: they learn from us and we learn from them!

What is your message to the youth from the non-EU states participating in the Prague Process, including of course Azerbaijan and Georgia?

I would definitely invite them to take a part in our Summer School in 2019! It will take place in Georgia, in the first week of July. The students will have a chance to broaden their understanding on migration from different perspectives, to find new friends, to meet fascinating professors from all around Europe and very dedicated ICMPD team members, and to have a lot of fun as well!

Migration Media Award: supporting objective reporting

The need for objective reporting on migration is getting ever more prominent. To support balanced and evidence-based reporting on migration, upon initiative of ICMPD, the EU-funded programmes EUROMED Migration IV and OPEN Media Hub in partnership with the European Asylum Support Office and Malta’s Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion initiated the **Migration Media Award (MMA)**.

This Award was created in 2017 to recognise excellence, relevance and newsworthiness of journalistic pieces dealing with migration in all its aspects in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Eligible entries consist of an already published story and a proposal of a new story, for the production of which Award winners receive funding. The objective of the MMA is to reward outstanding pieces of journalistic work on migration while recognising the role that media play in influencing the current narrative.

The 2017 MMA edition supported 35 winning stories in print, radio, online and video categories. The 2018 edition rewarded 41 published stories in the aforementioned categories as well as

the new multimedia and photo. The award provides a funding contribution from 750 to 7000 EUR to support the production of a second story.

Similarly, the so-called MIBMA Project initiated the annual **“Suitcase” journalism contest on migration issues in 2016**. Targeting journalistic pieces in Russian, Armenian and English in **Armenia**, this contest aims at uniting the potential of Yerevan and regional media representatives who cover and report on migration issues. The contest intends to encourage and motivate journalists to raise awareness and report on challenges and opportunities in the field of migration and border management. Participants of the “Suitcase 2018” can win a prize corresponding to 250 000 AMD.

More about “Suitcase”:

<https://www.mibma.eu/en/news/106-suitcase-2018-annual-journalism-contest>

More about the Migration Media Award:
<http://www.migration-media-award.eu/en/>



The first intern at the Prague Process Migration Observatory: interview with Jelena Jokic

The very first internship within the Prague Process Migration Observatory brought Ms. Jelena Jokic into the Prague Process Secretariat for a period of 3 months. As an ex-architect and future migration expert, she agreed to share her impressions with our readers.



Why migration?

I have always been fascinated by migration for its power to change people and societies. My own experience of emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina very much shaped who I am, and when this topic rose to the top of the agenda in Europe in recent years I felt compelled to educate myself about migration governance in a substantive way.

How did you learn about the ICMPD and the Prague Process Migration Observatory?

I came across ICMPD's publications in my university research and was drawn to the comprehensive approach of the organization, the way they intertwine research, dialogue, and capacity building. The relatively small scale of the organisation (compared to the UN or IOM) was also very important to me. I was checking job openings regularly on their website and when the Migration Observatory (MO) internship came up, it was the right time and the right job description. I was very excited by the

opportunity to use my visualizing skills from my previous career in architecture to produce data visualizations for the MO, but also by the prospect of participating in the set-up of a new initiative.

What were your expectations before you joined? What have you learned and what opportunities did the internship provide? What was the most challenging?

For me the people you meet measure the value of an internship, and I have had the opportunity to get to know some truly amazing people during my three months in ICMPD. The internship also far exceeded my expectations in terms of the quality of work I was entrusted with doing and the willingness of the team to foster my participation. I have learned a lot about the Prague Process region and the inner workings of intergovernmental dialogue, but also about the challenges of collecting migration data that can be valuable to the participating states.

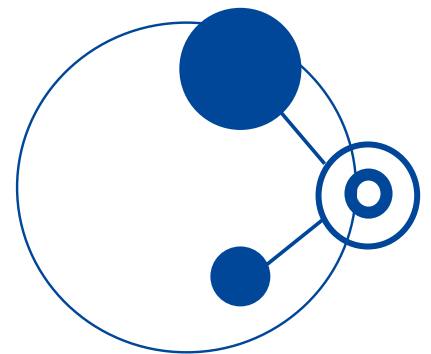
Studying International Development has made me appreciate the concept of stakeholder participation in the production of knowledge and this is what excites me about the Migration Observatory. I believe the Prague Process Migration Observatory has the potential to be a powerful and unique knowledge base if built from the ground up through state participation. One of the challenges was the short time frame of the internship, it is hard to let go of the project just as you get into it.

Would you recommend the internship to other students and why? What profile should they have?

Absolutely, it is a great learning experience in a small team that really cares about its interns. They should be interested in the process of migration dialogue, creative, and willing to learn.

In what other way could the Prague Process and the Prague Process Migration Observatory engage with and reach out to youth?

Organising summer schools is a great way to reach out to the youth in the participating states. Model Migration Dialogue (similar to the Model Youth Parliament) could also be a fun way to learn about migration governance. Having a bigger presence on Instagram (instead of Facebook) could engage young people to tell their migration stories through photography and video and raise awareness of the importance of migration dialogues.



Facts and figures from the region

MONTENEGRO adopted the programme for acquiring Montenegrin citizenship by admission on the basis of a special investment programme and tasked the competent institutions to make all the necessary assumptions in order for the programme to become applicable by 1 October 2018. The programme of economic citizenship will be available to up to 2,000 most relevant applicants from non-EU countries for a limited period of three years. Interested individuals will have the following options: to invest EUR 250,000 in some of the development projects previously approved by the Government in an undeveloped area of Montenegro, or to invest EUR 450,000 in some of the development projects previously approved by the Government in the developed area of Montenegro.

The programme of citizenship by investment is also supported by the following Prague Process participating states: Cyprus, Malta, Turkey, Russia, Bulgaria and Moldova.



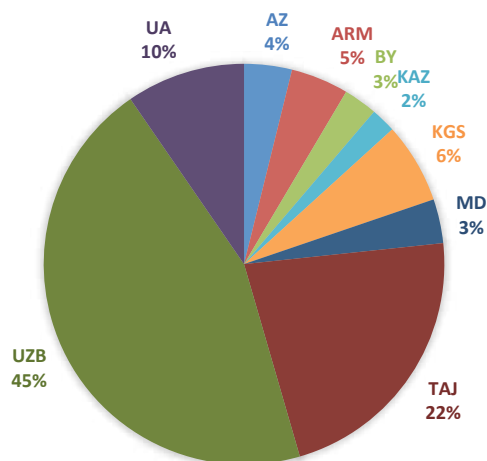
AZERBAIJAN introduced new amendments to its migration legislation. According to the amendments to Article 21 of the Migration Code, registration at the place of residence will be available for foreigners and stateless persons wishing to stay in Azerbaijan for more than 15 days. To date, this period was limited to 10 days. According to the amendments, restrictions imposed on the entry of foreigners and stateless persons into the country will be cancelled, provided the reasons for annulling the permit for arrival, residence permit and work permit for them are eliminated. In addition, the provision envisaging a ban of 5 years on entry of foreigners and stateless persons has been abolished.

UZBEKISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN discussed the introduction of a common tourist "Silk visa", which will allow its holders free tourist movement between the two countries. This initiative is being considered by other Central Asian Republics as well.



RUSSIA remains the main destination country for labour migrants from Tajikistan and Armenia. As announced by the Minister of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan in July 2018, over 90 per cent of Tajik labour migrants chose Russia for employment purposes². Similarly, according to a new study by the Ministry of Territorial Development and Administration of Armenia, more than 95 per cent of seasonal and 75 per cent of long-term migrants work in Russia. Annually, more than 200,000 Armenians leave to Russia for seasonal employment.³

LABOUR MIGRANTS IN RUSSIA IN 1/2 OF 2018



2. <http://www.mehnat.tj/mehnat/?p=2461&lang=en>

3. <https://emerging-europe.com/news/russia-remains-preferred-destination-for-armenian-migrants/>

Interesting reads:

Enhanced cooperation to tackle migration-Western Balkans and the Berlin Process, JULY 2018, Senada Šelo Šabac
<http://idscs.org.mk/en/2018/06/26/see-think-net-berlin-process/>

Triandafyllidou, A. (2017) 'Media Coverage on Migration: Promoting a Balanced Reporting', in McAuliffe, M. and M. Klein Solomon (Conveners) (2017) Ideas to Inform International Cooperation on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, IOM: Geneva
https://www.google.at/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwJx-te2zL3eAhURh6YKHTf_CEOQFjAAegQICRAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpublications.iom.int%2Fsystem%2Ffiles%2Fpdf%2Fmedia_coverage_on_migration.pdf&usg=AOvVaw157FghXgVEERTvonH_Ekj8

UN Secretary-General Report on International Migration and Development (un.org)
<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N18/246/56/PDF/N1824656.pdf?OpenElement>

OECD Employment Outlook 2018 (oecd-ilibrary.org)
https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/oecd-employment-outlook-2018_empl_outlook-2018-en



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