



AFRICA: A NEW TAKE ON MIGRATION

ICMPD MIEUX Picks Up Speed



Photo (from left to right): Gregor Janc (Slovenian expert); Chantal Lacroix, ICMPD Brussels; Elvis Thodi (Malawi Chief Immigration Officer); Goran Borovnik (Slovenian expert); Robert More (Slovenian expert).

The last months generated numerous technical assistance requests for Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX) and selected short-term capacity building projects have started implementation. Most notably, ICMPD MIEUX and three experts from the Slovenian border police undertook a border procedure assessment mission in Malawi from 12-19 September in the framework of the joint EC-ICMPD MIEUX initiative. The mission is the second of a five-step short-term technical assistance programme that provides capacity building in border management to Malawi's Immigration Department. The mission mapped out current procedures and identified areas for improvement. This step is followed by the elaboration of a procedural handbook for immigration officers and the training of relevant Malawi officials.

Other MIEUX technical assistance provided include, amongst other:

- Kazakhstan (October 22, 2009): MIEUX organised a seminar on mobility in Astana. The objective of the seminar was to improve the capacities of relevant

institutions to better manage migration-related issues in accordance with EU standards and practices, as well as to provide a platform for discussion and increased co-operation between Kazakh authorities and the European Union.

- Cape Verde (from December 2009): MIEUX will support the government of Cape Verde in developing national migration policies with a view to reducing irregular migration and maximising migration benefits. The six-month action will include a number of seminars on the identification of gaps and needs, the development and implementation of national migration policies, and a strategy and action plan.
- Mozambique (January 2010): MIEUX will provide technical assistance in modern migration management systems and methods, with particular focus on irregular migration. This three-month technical assistance will entail workshops and study visits to relevant European Union Member State institutions.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 ICMPD MIEUX Picks Up Speed
- 2 The DG's Corner
Steering Group elects new DG
- 3 MTM Projects
The i-Map in Syria
- 4 Project Update
IBM Seminar in Cap Verde
- 5 ICMPD in Brussels:
Diaspora Policy Seminar
- 6 Building Migration Partnerships
- 7 Budapest Process
- 8 Budapest Process
Project Update
- 9 Anti-Trafficking Project Updates
- 10 Project Updates
- 11 Project Update
International Research Workshop
- 12 Inside ICMPD

- East Timor (from January 2010): MIEUX will support the Timorese in the elaboration of a five year action plan, along with the development of a short-term capacity building programme on data collection, trafficking in human beings, and asylum and protection.
- Sierra Leone (from January 2010): MIEUX will provide technical expertise for a migration and border management needs assessment, the organisation of relevant training and the development of a national legislation on migration.
- Angola (February 2010): MIEUX will support the development of a national information campaign on the dangers of irregular migration and the development of the legal framework on migration.

MIEUX is financed by the European Union and implemented by ICMPD. To learn more about MIEUX, please visit: www.icmpd.org



THE DG's CORNER

Dear Reader,

In the past years I have in this column reiterated ICMPD's identity, the direction in which the organisation is progressing and the part it wishes to play in the huge field of migration policy. For me, the following considerations have always been in the foreground: migration policy is a core part of state sovereignty; however, it is simultaneously the national expression on the rule of law and human rights. The actual challenge is to reconcile the interests of all actors, i.e. the public, individual migrants, countries of origin and destination. This means for the migration policy maker to find a compromise between conflicting interests and a tacit acceptance of a certain degree of failure, to achieve full control over migration management.

Against this background, it is ICMPD's endeavour to support countries in their way of shaping their migration policies, in the best possible manner, and by providing professional services, since states and their institutions are actors; ICMPD is meanwhile endeavouring to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of state actions. In this way, recent years have led to the elaboration of competencies, within ICMPD, in the analysis of migratory movements, the planning and implementing of comprehensive service packages, and the development of a solution-oriented partnership approach methodology.

This Newsletter, in turn, delivers insight into the multiplicity and scope of current ICMPD activities, expressing the complexity of migration management. More than ever we are not only dealing with internal measures to improve the management of migration movements, but, moreover, with the development of a partnership basis between state and non-state actors in order to cope more effectively with the common challenges. In particular, the focus on the external dimension of migration policies clearly demonstrates where progress can be made in future, provided that trust-

building will continuously lead to increased common interests.

At the same time, as new activities are introduced and ongoing activities updated, I would like to say good-bye as Director General of ICMPD. As of next year, Peter Widermann, together with the ICMPD staff, to which I extend my sincere gratitude and of whose success I am very proud, will continue this ambitious work in the service of the states, and thus also in the interest of migrants themselves. I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate him on the excellent election by the ICMPD Member States represented in the Steering Group.

I am convinced that Peter Widermann, with his long and extensive experience in migration policy, will continue the time-proven services and provide new incentives. Dear readers, I thank you for your interest in ICMPD's work, and hope that you will continue to keep in touch with the organisation in future.

Yours,

Steering Group elects new ICMPD Director General

The second meeting of the ICMPD Steering Group in 2009 took place on September 11 on the new premises of the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) in Lisbon, Portugal, the Chair of the Steering Group for 2009, hosted the meeting. The agenda included a discussion on procedural and formal steps for ICMPD membership, the role of the Steering Group, and future project ideas and activities. The SEF presented the use of new technologies in Migration Management. The Meeting also elected the successor of the current Director General of ICMPD, Gottfried Zürcher, whose five-year mandate will terminate at the end of 2009.

The new ICMPD Director General as of January 2010, Dr Peter Widermann, is an Austrian national who has served for more than 20 years within the Federal Ministry of the Interior, where he has held a number of positions relating to e.g. civil protection resp. visa and border management. Dr Widermann, who is currently Deputy Director General for



Photo (from left to right): Gottfried Zürcher; SG Meeting chair Claudia Rocha, Portugal; Dr Peter Widermann.

Public Security, will be the third Director General of ICMPD, following in the footsteps of Jonas Widgren (1993 - 2004) and Gottfried Zürcher (since 2005).

“Linking Emigrant Communities for more Development”



Photo: Delegates at the launch of the project in The Hague, June 2009.

In May 2009 ICMPD and IOM launched the joint project “Linking Emigrant Communities for More Development – Inventory of Institutional Capacities and Practices”.

The project, which is co-funded by the governments of France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland, and implemented within the framework of Pillar II on Migration and Development of the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), aims at contributing to increasing the knowledge and capacities of national governments to engage

emigrant communities for development by providing an Inventory presenting comparable information on existing practices, lessons learned and future recommendations.

The Launching Expert Meeting of the joint ICMPD-IOM project, hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took place in The Hague on 23 and 24 June 2009. The two-day Meeting provided the space for a dialogue between representatives from 21 MTM Partner States and various relevant observers to ensure a common understanding of planned

activities and commitment of all the involved partners, and allowed for the fine-tuning of the planned “Inventory of Institutional Capacities and Practices” publication to the interests and needs of Partner States.

The project has now entered its second phase, information collection. The first data collection mission to Senegal and Cape Verde took place early September and the second data collection mission to Egypt and Ethiopia at the end of September.

MTM  **i-map**

Participating States gather in Syria



Photo: The MTM i-Map meeting took place in Damascus, Syria, 30 June - 1 July, 2009.

The MTM i-Map project 2009-2010, financed by the European Commission Thematic Programme for co-operation with third countries in the field of asylum and migration, is progressing according to the programme of activities. Content as well as technical improvements are regularly added to the i-Map website www.imap-migration.org. The first MTM i-Map Expert Meeting of the

year took place in Damascus, Syria, on 30 June and 1 July 2009. The meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Interior of the Syrian Arab Republic and organised in co-operation with ICMPD, gathered Arab and European Partner States (APS and EPS), the European Commission, the Partner Agencies Europol, Frontex, Interpol, UNHCR and UNODC, and various relevant observers e.g. ESCWA,

IOM, IOPCR. With an initial geographic focus on Europe and the Mediterranean region, the MTM i-Map 2009-2010 is now expanding southwards. Next, key sub-Saharan countries along the migration routes will be visited and invited to join the i-Map activity of the MTM Dialogue, including participation in the forthcoming MTM i-Map Expert Meeting, foreseen for December 2009.

“A Comprehensive Survey of Migration Flows and Institutional Capabilities in Libya”



Photo: Members of the ICMPD delegation on their way to the southern border point of Al-Qatroun.

ICMPD's fourth and latest expert assessment mission to Libya within the context of the project “A Comprehensive Survey of Migration Flows and Institutional Capabilities in Libya” was concluded on 26 July, 2009. The mission addressed the topics of border management and trafficking and smuggling. Mission participants and experts, which included two ICMPD staff, one UNODC expert, one Libyan customs official, and the head of IOPCR visited three separate border locations, including Ras Ijdeir to the west of Libya (bordering Tunisia), Am Sa'ad to the east of Libya (bordering Egypt), and Al-Qatroun to the south of Libya (bordering Niger).

The Libya Survey report is in the process of finalisation, and will be subject to formal approval by all quadripartite partners (ICMPD, UNHCR, IOPCR, and CIR) in early November 2009.

Integrated Border Management Seminar in Cape Verde

In collaboration with the International and Ibero-American Foundation of Public Administration and Policies (FIIAPP), ICMPD held a seminar on Integrated Border Management (IBM) on 21-23 July in Praia, Cape Verde.

The aim of the seminar, which took place within the framework of the AENEAS project “Mise en Place du Plan d'Action du Rabat”, was to present the EU concept of IBM - intraservice, inter-agency and international co-operation and co-ordination - to senior border management officials from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Coast, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

As the first of its kind, the seminar also took stock of existing IBM initiatives and the participants engaged in a frank and open discussion on how IBM could be implemented in West Africa. All participants expressed great interest in further activities related to the development of IBM in their countries.



Photo: Participants from Sierra Leone (left) and Ghana.

Seminar: *Diaspora in the Joint Africa - EU Strategic Partnership*

On 1-2 October 2009, ICMPD Brussels co-organised a policy seminar together with the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the European Commission.

Over the past few years, policy makers at the highest levels, researchers and practitioners have recognised the key role that the diaspora can play in the development of their countries of origin. The diaspora's dual identity, as citizens of both home and host societies, places them in a strategic position to understand the realities and challenges of both the North and South. Africans living in Europe occupy an important position to act as mediators between Europe and Africa and therefore, harnessing their social and financial capital will help Africa's socio-economic development.

There is a strong need to actively engage the African diaspora in policy making and implementation to achieve more coherent and effective results. Until now, few concrete initiatives have managed to bring together diaspora leaders and policy makers from Africa and Europe to discuss practical options to develop effective partnerships and advance an inclusive agenda. The Seminar intended to fill this gap. The unique event offered key diaspora leaders and AU and EU officials working on migration and development the opportunity to discuss,

interact and forge closer links as well as to get to know each other's priorities and concerns. Most importantly, it provided the possibility to exchange ideas on the strategic role that the African diaspora in Europe can play, both in policy dialogue and the practical implementation of the Joint Africa – EU Strategic Partnership (more specifically, within the framework of the Africa – EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment).

The Seminar explored the options and policy instruments that could facilitate the involvement of the diaspora as critical development actors within the Africa – EU Partnership in a structured and formal manner. It also attempted to identify specific aspects in the Action Plan of the Partnership through which the diaspora and established development policy circles can partner and join forces for a successful implementation. The objective of the Seminar was to formulate an African diaspora position on the Joint Africa – EU Strategic Partnership. This 'diaspora position' was presented in the form of a Policy Report to the Swedish government (during its EU presidency) and at the Civil Society



Photo: Dimitria Clayton, Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration, North Rhine Westphalia, Germany; Kaus Rudischauser, Director, DG Development, European Commission; Lukas Gehrke, Head, ICMPD Brussels. © François Vieira - Photos Vied'art.

Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Athens on 2 – 3 November 2009.

For more information contact: ICMPD-Brussels@icmpd.org



Photo: The Seminar was held at the Borschette Conference Centre, European Commission.

“Building Migration Partnerships”- Introductory Missions



Photo: Turkmenbashi Institute for HR and Democracy, Turmenistan.



Photo: Presidential Office, Tajikistan.

The project “Building Migration Partnerships”, funded by the European Commission and the project partners the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, has entered its implementation phase after the Ministerial Conference in Prague on 27-28 April 2009. In the light of this and following the project work plan, the leader of the project – the Czech Republic – supported by other partner states and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, has started to prepare introductory missions to project beneficiary countries.

As presented at the Workshop I on illegal migration, return, readmission and reintegration held in Prague on 2-3 July 2009, the first introductory missions took place to Uzbekistan (14-16 June), Turkmenistan (18-20 June) and Tajikistan (22-24 June), during which meetings with state authorities responsible for the fields of migration, as well as international organisations and the representation of the European Commission took place. After the Workshop in Prague, introductory missions to Kazakhstan (10-12 August) and Kyrgyzstan (13-14 August) followed. Representatives of the Czech EU Presidency, the Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration and ICMPD participated in all five missions. Missions to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine are foreseen before the end of 2009. In 2010 the project will continue with substance expert missions to all eleven beneficiary countries.



Photo: Minister of Labour and Czech Ambassador, Kazakhstan.



Photo: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kyrgyzstan.

The first Workshops on thematic areas set by the “Building Migration Partnerships” Joint Declaration

The first Workshop on thematic areas: Preventing and Fighting Illegal Migration Readmission, Voluntary Return, and Sustainable Reintegration was hosted in Prague by the Czech Ministry of the Interior as the leading partner in the “Building Migration Partnership” project on 2-3 July 2009. The topics of the Workshop followed the corresponding themes of the adopted Building Migration Partnership Joint Declaration, which mandated the senior

officials of participating states to further elaborate and define the main objectives of the Declaration in line with their priorities. The Workshop was attended by representatives of 32 countries, the European Commission, and five international organisations.

The Border and Aliens Police of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic hosted Workshop II of the “Building Migration Partnerships” project in Bratislava on 14-15 September 2009. The meeting gathered more than 45 representatives from 24 states, the Swedish EU Presidency, the European Commission, IOM, MARRI and UNHCR. Participants from EU Member States, the South-Eastern and Eastern Neighbourhood

of the EU and Central Asia discussed issues related to legal migration with special focus on labour migration, integration and migration and development. Information gathered in a form of answers provided by states to a questionnaire as well as work in three thematic sessions, chaired by experts from the Czech Republic, Romania and Hungary during the workshop, will contribute to further steps foreseen in the project and to elaborating the projects’ objectives.

The next Workshop in the framework of the BMP project took place in Bucharest on 12-13 October 2009 and focused on the i-Map Eastern Migration Route.

Budapest Process: Working Group Meeting on SEE



Photo: The Budapest Process Working Group on the SEE region convened in Zagreb.

Meeting of the Budapest Process Working Group on the SEE Region on 27-28 August 2009 in Croatia

The topic of the Meeting, hosted and chaired by the Ministry of Interior of Croatia and held in Zagreb, was “Practical implementation of readmission agreements in the South East European Region”. About 40 participants from 23 countries and six international and regional organisations convened in Zagreb to discuss operational aspects of readmission and provide for information exchange and sharing of good practices regarding common challenges and priorities for readmission in the region.

During the meeting representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia presented their situation regarding the practical implementation of readmission agreements, both regarding nationals and readmission and return of third country nationals, as well as challenges and priorities for the future.

After stock-taking regarding practical implementation of readmission agreements in the SEE Region, the second day of the meeting concentrated on structures for regional co-operation, notably the Regional Cooperation Council and the MARRI.

The meeting produced a number of important conclusions regarding operational aspects of readmission agreements and return policies, inter alia on the level of co-operation between sending and receiving countries, the necessity to strengthen re-integration measures and further co-operation regarding identification. Recommendations were reached in the following areas: improvement of efficiency of procedures, further regional harmonisation of existing readmission agreements, approximation to European standards, negotiation and signing of new readmission agreements both between the countries of the region and with the most significant countries of origin of irregular migrants, capacity building measures for implementation of readmission agreements and investigation of new possibilities and sources for financing voluntary return.

During lively working group sessions the participants discussed and identified several good practices on practical implementation of readmission agreements that have been saved into a special good practice compilation resulting from the meeting.

Budapest Process Friends of the Chair met in Vienna

On 9 September 2009 the Friends of the Chair of the Budapest Process met in Vienna. The Meeting, which serves as the advisory board to the Chair in all matters related to the strategic orientation of the Process, was chaired by Turkey and gathered main donor States of the Budapest Process, as well as the leading/hosting countries for the Working Groups. Discussions included current and future priorities of the Budapest Process, as well as suggestions from the Secretariat for advancing the administration and financial viability of the process. Further topics discussed were the relationship and possible synergies between activities of the Budapest Process and the follow-up activities to the “Building Migration Partnerships” Ministerial Conference held in April 2009 during the EU Presidency of the Czech Republic. A survey among participating states on their priorities for the Budapest Process was organised in preparation of the meeting. In short, it was concluded that the Budapest Process remains one of the most important informal co-operation frameworks on migration matters on the Eurasian continent. All participating countries attach great value to its working methods and results and singled it out as one

(continued on page 8)

Budapest Process Friends of the Chair at ICMPD HQ in Vienna



Photo: Friends of the Chair at the ICMPD HQ meeting.

(continued from page 7)

of the most operational and important forums available for information exchange and dialogue. Furthermore, the Budapest Process can provide implementation support to the EU Global Approach to Migration to the East and South East regions as it helps translating political commitments into concrete action. It can also become an important framework to follow up some of the elements of the Joint Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Conference. In addition, the Budapest Process remains a strong supportive framework for countries aiming at EU harmonisation.

The participants in the Friends of the Chair Meeting held that the process should retain its thematic focus on the classical areas of attention, namely (i) prevention and fight against irregular migration, (ii) return and readmission and (iii) asylum. The work should focus on key nationalities in the migration process and be active along the migration routes. Border management should be increasingly discussed. In addition to this, it is a priority to provide for co-operation on labour migration as well as on sustainable return and links between return and development.

Geographically, the Budapest Process should retain its present geographical extension but for the purpose of particular meetings it should seek active co-operation with countries further away along the migration routes and invite such countries as guests to working group meetings.

As working methodology, participants strongly encouraged a practical approach with concrete outcomes and tangible results. To increase concrete follow-up, states will already at working group meetings discuss follow-up and pilot projects. Inclusive

and inter-active methods should be used increasingly during the meetings, for example break-out working sessions. The Secretariat was asked to set up a protected Internet platform in order have all documentation from the meetings accessible online. To increase the financial viability of the Budapest Process and the Secretariat, continued consultations should be carried out with participating countries in co-operation between the Chair, Co-chair and the Secretariat.

Quadripartite Meeting between UNHCR, IOPCR, ICMPD and CIR

Within the framework of the partnership and co-operation agreement concluded between the International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief (IOPCR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Italian Council for Refugees (CIR) and ICMPD, Mr Khaled EL-Khweldi EL-Hamedi, Chairman of IOPCR, met Dr Mohammed Hantosh, Chief of Mission of UNHCR in Tripoli, Mr Christopher Hein, Director of CIR, and ICMPD in Tripoli at the beginning of June. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the methodology of joint co-operation and co-ordination between the IOPCR and its partners on how to provide services and humanitarian assistance to irregular immigrants residing in Libya. The partners also discussed possibilities of finding humanitarian durable solutions for such population including prospects of voluntary return to their respective countries of origin, pursuant to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed in 2008.

Lebanese Migration Officials visited the Czech Republic



Photo: The Lebanese delegates appreciated the on-the-ground view and understanding of migrant reception and detention in an EU Member State.

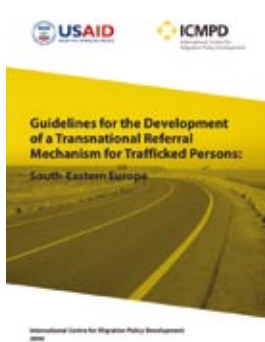
Within the framework of the EU-financed "Strengthening Reception and Detention Capacities in Lebanon" (STREDECA) project, ICMPD organised the first of two study visits to EU open and/or closed migrant detention in July 2009 in co-operation with the STREDECA project partners, Caritas Lebanon and UNHCR Lebanon. Hosted by the Refugee Facilities Administration department of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, the visit provided eight

delegates from the Directorate General of the Security General (DGSG) of Lebanon with the opportunity to learn and exchange on issues relating to reception and detention post-apprehension. Over four days, participants engaged in working discussions on the identification process, administration processes, logistics involved and good practices for refurbishment, as well as social services to vulnerable groups.

TRM: Closer to an Effective Anti-trafficking Network

Over 120 government and NGO representatives from Southeastern Europe and West-European countries gathered near the beautiful lake Ohrid from June 1-4 to wrap up three years of efforts in combating trafficking in human beings in the region and beyond. “Now we speak the same language” commented the participants satisfied by the established Transnational Referral Mechanisms as an effective co-operation tool between the relevant counterparts.

The “Programme to Support the Development of Transnational Referral Mechanisms for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe”, implemented by ICMPD and funded by USAID seeks to ensure that trafficked persons receive appropriate care and support when moving between countries for return, resettlement or participating in trials and to empower trafficked persons to restart a self-determined life. The programme targets Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.



The TRM Guidelines have been elaborated by practitioners from South-Eastern Europe in the framework of the Programme to Support the Development of Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons.



Photo: Family photo of the participants of the final TRM Seminar.

- The final, comprehensive version of the TRM guidelines has been published. A final meeting of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinators took place on 28 October in

building environment has been created – communication has started in order to ensure decent and proper care for victims across borders.

The success of the TRM is a good ground for further development and widening of the anti-trafficking mechanisms all over the world. The TRM has evolved from a programme into a concept – a concept that promotes and facilitates international co-operation in anti-trafficking on a practical level. Such transnational co-operation is the only effective means to ensuring sustainability.



This publication was developed in the extension phase of the project. It summarises in a few pages the three years of development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism in South-Eastern Europe.

During the conference, the representatives from national implementation teams had the opportunity to jointly present examples of transnational co-operation as a result of established communication networks. Several workshops were organised to address specific issues, related to major challenges in fighting trafficking in human beings at the regional level. Most of the countries' representatives agreed on the need to formalise the implementation of the guidelines by signing agreements with countries of destination. At the conclusion of the seminar it was stressed that this process of formalisation and establishing structured contacts had already started and is the most effective means to international co-operation in this field. The next steps of the TRM project are:

- ICMPD provides support in adapting and implementing the monitoring tool;

Vienna. The participants of the meeting developed joint conclusions for the TRM implementation, acknowledging that they will continue the co-operation established in the frameworks of the TRM Programme.

- A final report containing information gathered during the TRM implementation and lessons learned will be published. The seminar participants recognised that a process has started with the TRM programme that will not stop with the end of the programme itself. It became evident that the efficiency of the TRM is a by-product of the commitment of the actors involved in it to use it to its full potential.

What can be concluded out of the TRM experience so far?

After 40 months of joint efforts, co-operation mechanisms are strengthened, not only between SEE countries but also with other European actors. In addition, a trust

“Enhancing the Effectiveness of National Action Plans against Human Trafficking in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia”

A new ICMPD anti-trafficking project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, started on 1 September 2009.

The project focuses on improving the effectiveness of national action plans against trafficking in human beings in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It seeks to support the governments of the three countries with the amendment and update of the existing anti-trafficking strategies and action plans and with the capacity building of the organisational/administrative components of the supporting framework.

This includes an optimisation of co-ordination structures, setting up appropriate structures for future monitoring, evaluation and revision as well as data collection and information management.

Ukraine Document Security Project ended

The Steering Group meeting and the Closing Conference of the project “Strengthening capacities and co-operation in the identification of forged and falsified documents in Ukraine” took place on 23 June 2009 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The events gathered together some 40 high ranking participants from project partner states, Ukrainian authorities and international organisations in the field of document security and were devoted to the official final presentation of the results achieved under the project.

The conference was the closing event for the EU AENEAS 2005 project which, with a budget of over 750.000 EUR, was implemented over a period of 30 months by ICMPD together with its partners: the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces in Kyiv and the western regions of Ukraine.

The project was designed to enhance the capacities of border, consular and migration authorities in detecting forged and falsified travel documents. Experts from Hungary, Poland, the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic co-operated closely with their Ukrainian counterparts and worked jointly on bringing Ukrainian travel document control methods in line with EU standards.

A total of 40 core project activities were undertaken under the project. Four workshops,

one seminar and nine working group meetings with over 100 participants were successfully held in Kyiv. Two study tours to Hungary and the Netherlands respectively were organised, with 20 participants from each beneficiary agency. Intensive training of 25 national trainers representing the State Border Guard Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Security Service and State Committee on

Nationalities and Religions was conducted at the National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. In addition to an instruction video and a training manual, the trainers also received specialised training equipment. Six training sessions for over 120 border, migration and consular personnel held within the project helped the national trainers to enhance their skills and to equip the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge required for the identification of forged and falsified travel documents.



Photo: During the final Conference in Kyiv.

The project also provided a broad range of assistance in information exchange. The practical result of this assistance is the development and approval of an information exchange mechanism between SBGS, MFA, MIA, SSU and SBNR on genuine, falsified and forged travel documents.

The conference was the occasion to present the lessons learnt under the project and recommendations for future document control policies and practices in Ukraine.

EU State Officials and Ukrainians Exchanging Experiences within GDISC ERIT Ukraine



Photo: The workshop underlined the need to develop policies and procedures for forced return in parallel to voluntary return.

The capacity building project GDISC ERIT Ukraine, now in the second half of its implementation, in the last few months offered further opportunities for exchanging experiences between EU state officials and their Ukrainian counterparts on different issues such as reception and screening procedures, visa issuing procedures, interviews of asylum seekers but mainly return processes.

Training workshops, inter-ministerial working group meetings and study visits have been organised, addressing both policy, strategic as well as operational issues. For instance, the workshop on forced return that took place in summer in Kiev gathered 20 representatives of the regional offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Border Guard Service. It highlighted key elements in identification and documentation procedures, removal by air, setting up return charters, and provision of escorts. Officials of the United Kingdom Border Agency provided the training, together with a representative of Group4Security, to which the UK has outsourced escorting. Per Kvistholm, Head of Return Sector of Frontex, presented the Frontex good practice compilations on the acquisition of travel documents as well as removal by air.

“Strengthening Capacities and Co-operation in the Identification of Forged and Falsified Travel Documents at the Moldova-Romania Border” - Assessment Mission

After a successful kick-off conference in June, a five-day mission to Moldova to assess the state of affairs of the document security system in the country was conducted by ICMPD with the support of international experts from 10th to 15th August, 2009. The activity was implemented in the framework of the EC Thematic Call project “Strengthening Capacities and Cooperation in the Identification of Forged and Falsified Travel Documents at the Moldova-Romania Border”. This 18-month project, which started on 1st April 2009, aims to contribute to the fight against irregular migration in Moldova through the following objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of staff of the agencies involved in the fight against irregular migration to detect forged and falsified travel documents.
- Improving co-operation and information exchange between the agencies involved in the fight against irregular migration.

During this mission four experts from France, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia together with project officer Monika Weber (ICMPD) conducted a series of meetings on central, regional and local levels. The team met with

officials from the Border Guard Service, the Bureau of Migration from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Informational Development. The experts visited the International Airport Chisinau and the accommodation centre for asylum seekers of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as several offices of the Technical Criminal Department. The experts had an opportunity to discuss issues of document security on the local level at two border crossing points to Romania: the railway border crossing point Ungheni and the road border crossing point Sculeni. The framework of training on document security was presented by the director and teachers from the National College of the Border Guard Service in Ungheni.

Meetings with the international stakeholders included the EC Delegation, the Czech Ambassador to Moldova, Mr. Petr Kypr, the Romanian police attaché, Mr. Emanuel Preda, EUBAM, OSCE and IOM.

The participating experts will present the findings on the status quo and their recommendations in an assessment report.



Photo: Expert examining ID-documents.

Project partners are Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic, DCAF is the associate partner.

International Workshop ‘ICT and Migrations: Mobility and Cohesion in the Digital Age’



On 24 and 25 September 2009, ICMPD’s Research & Documentation Unit organised an international workshop: ‘ICT and Migration: Mobility and Cohesion in the Digital Age’ in the premises of the Austrian Industrialists’ Federation (Industriellenvereinigung).

During the first day, three Working Groups presented research projects in the fields of

- Connected Communities: Effects and Implications;
- ICT, Skills and the Economic Participation of Migrants; and
- ICT for Development: Remittances and the Transfer of Knowledge, Skills and Technologies.

On the second day, experienced policymakers and practitioners discussed together with researchers present and future strategies for ICT and migration governance.

To summarise, the workshop showed there is ‘migration-specific’ Internet usage beyond migrant websites. Among the most salient issues, several scientific contributions highlighted the potential of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) as relevant social networking tools for new immigrants with both already established migrants and autochthonous living in the country of destination.

The Internet in particular acts as an amplifier of personal networks: on the one hand it enables establishing new contacts online (also prior to migration) and on the other hand it helps to manage communication with contacts established in offline interactions. Migration related Internet usage also bears a developmental potential for countries of origin both at local and national level. An example of this is the African virtual university, a project by the World Bank for Senegal at: www.avu.org, or an online

diaspora of Romanian scientists (www.ad-astra.ro) which launched a local NGO in Romania to promote education reform. Furthermore, the workshop disproved the wide-spread assumption that only highly-skilled persons are using ICT by exploring e.g. the role of ICT in domestic care work settings or the effect of IT skills on migrant women’s employability in Europe.

During the final workshop discussion it was concluded that there is a lack of knowledge about the relationship between online and offline lives in migration studies and that the effects of ICT on international migration movements and migrants’ lives needs to be further explored.

There is an urgent need for standardised (quantitative and qualitative) data on the uptake and use of ICT by immigrants and ethnic minority groups in Europe as well as for new theoretical and methodological approaches to understand the role of ICT in international migration movements.

For more information please visit: <http://research.icmpd.org>

ICMPD @ CIS COUNCIL TWO CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Council of Heads of migration authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States

ICMPD took part in the 5th meeting of the Council of Heads of migration authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in Kazan on 14-15 May 2009. Heads of migration authorities from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine, as observer to the Council, discussed migration related issues and relations between CIS states as well as co-operation in the field of migration between the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Euroasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and the Community Security Treaty Organisation. Participants discussed priority directions of their co-operation in migration, current situation in migration in CIS states, criteria for unified statistics on (labour) migration in CIS countries and information exchange systems between CIS migration authorities. In addition to this, the Director of the Russian Federal Migration Service Mr. Romodanovsky presented in practise how Migration Services in all federative subjects communicate online and the Migration Service of the Republic of Tatarstan demonstrated unpiloted planes with camera systems utilised for the identification of illegal migrants. ICMPD elaborated on the "Building Migration Partnerships" Ministerial Conference held in Prague on 27-28 April 2009 during the Czech EU Presidency, as well as on the endorsed Joint Declaration, and informed about the ongoing "Building Migration Partnerships" project, to which 11 post-Soviet countries are the beneficiaries.



Photo: ICMPD DG Gottfried Zürcher and ACVZ Chair Adriana C.J. van Dooijeweert signing the MoU.

MoU with ACVZ

On 15 May a Memorandum of Understanding on the enhancement of co-operation in the area of research and information exchange was signed between the Dutch Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs and ICMPD. It was agreed that both organisations will exchange research reports and materials elaborated by one of the parties, make available their respective libraries and work on common research projects. The Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ), established in 2001, is an independent committee that advises the Dutch Government and Parliament on immigration law and policy. Current Chair of the ACVZ is Ms Adriana C.J. van Dooijeweert who also signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of ACVZ.

Exchange of Letters with FRONTEX

The existing working relations between ICMPD and the European Agency Frontex have led to a level of collaboration and mutual trust which resulted in framing the co-operation between both agencies via an exchange of letters between Mr Ilkka Laitinen, the Executive Director of Frontex and the Director General of ICMPD on 27 June. The two organisations have agreed to focus on improving the management of migratory flows via co-operation in the field of training, research and capacity-building activities for the border guards of EU Member States or those of third countries. Gottfried Zürcher emphasised that the common understanding achieved between ICMPD and Frontex serves as a framework within which both parties shall structure their co-operation in the field of border management.

Published by



ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

Gonzagagasse 1
A-1010 Vienna
Tel. +43-1-504 46 77
Fax +43-1-504 46 77 75
www.icmpd.org
newsletter@icmpd.org

To subscribe and receive the Newsletter in your mailbox, please send a mail to: Newsletter@ICMPD.org or visit our website: icmpd.org/icmpdnewsletter.html to access a subscription form. Older issues of the Newsletter are also available for download from the ICMPD website.