

What is ICMPD?

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development is an inter-governmental organisation with UN Observer status, created in 1993 at the initiative of Switzerland and Austria. The purpose of the Centre is to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies and to function as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organisations in the wider European region.

International Co-operation and Dialogue on Migration Policy

More than 30 governments actively support ICMPD in various ways. The 11 ICMPD Member States are Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland. Bilateral co-operation agreements and Memoranda of Understanding have been concluded with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Ukraine. The Centre shares close co-operation with the European Commission, international organisations such as Europol, FRONTEX, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol and many others.

The basic infrastructure is financed by the Member States as well as through various projects. In addition, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK provide regular financial contributions, and grants to ICMPD for projects have been rendered by France, Germany, Liechtenstein and the USA. The European Commission is the biggest donor by way of project grants, followed by Austria, Switzerland, UK and Sweden.

Addressing Current and Future Migration Policy Challenges

ICMPD is active in various fields related to migration management in which countries currently face challenges: from visa policy and border management to asylum and readmission to trafficking in human beings. Two departments specialise in migration policy, research and consultancy services.

The objective of the Policy Development Department is the elaboration, implementation and contribution to long-term strategies to cope with growing migration pressures, including the facilitation of early warning, the combat of root causes, the harmonisation of entry control and the co-ordination of aliens, asylum, refugee and visa policies with a view to making migration management more effective. A further objective is to contribute to the reinforcement of international migration co-operation in order to facilitate the development of regional (European) and global concepts and systems for more manageable migration.

The objective of the Consultancy Services Department is to contribute to good migration governance in various fields of migration, border management and human trafficking. Comprehensive institution and capacity building measures at national and regional levels are implemented in order to strengthen national and regional capacities to deal with the current challenges.

Capacity- and institution-building, technical assistance, training module- and curriculum development, national strategy formulation and implementation, as well as monitoring and review schemes are carried out in all the substantive areas, i.e. trafficking in human beings, integrated border management, visa, refugee/IDPs management, and migration systems/migratory flow management.

ICMPD has since its inception been deeply involved in the creation and development of informal and flexible consultative structures involving migration officials from sending, transit and receiving states

with a view to preventing irregular migration. As Secretariat for the Budapest Process on entry control harmonisation, which involves more than 40 states and 10 international organisations, ICMPD has organised numerous inter-governmental meetings since 1994. Since 2002, ICMPD is also active in establishing an informal network to prevent irregular migration over the Mediterranean, called dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM).

For further information on ICMPD's activities, please refer to our website at www.icmpd.org, or contact us under icmpd@icmpd.org.

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