

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Partnerships Division (IPD)
Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration

Summary of Findings per ISCM

As part of an assessment of inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCMs), a survey was conducted in 2019. Carried out by IOM among ISCMs, their Member States and relevant inter-governmental organizations, the survey aimed to assess ISCMs' continued relevance and contribution to migration governance at all levels (national, regional and international) and the synergies among ISCMs and with other actors. The findings of this survey were presented at the global gathering of ISCMs in 2019 and were used to develop recommendations to enhance ISCMs' engagement in migration governance.

46 States and 22 ISCMs and 3 inter-governmental organizations provided answers to the questionnaires. The results are to be found in the 2019 assessment report: Advancing a common understanding of migration governance among regions, which provides an overview on ISCMs' organization, engagements, their continued relevance and synergies with relevant actors in the area of migration management. In addition to the report, the information below is meant to outline each individual ISCM's thematic priorities, structure, impact and relevance.

Name of the Inter-state consultation mechanism (ISCM): ***Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management***

1. Evolution of programing and thematic focus

The Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (EaP Panel) was launched in 2017 by merging the EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum (EaPPMA) with the EAP Integrated Border Management panel. EaPPMA, in turn is the successor of the Söderköping Process, a cross-border cooperation process on asylum and migration. Through the merger in 2017 the ISCM was restructured to target a specific set of goals in the area of visa liberalization and mobility partnerships. The thematic areas responding to these include: Border management; Migration law; Migration policy and governance (through exchange of information on participating countries' legislation and governance structures); Labour migration; Irregular migration; Combatting trafficking in human beings; Rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants; Asylum and refugees.

The EaP Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management's work is guided by the EaP – 20 Deliverables 2020 guidelines, focusing on the deliverable 17: on progress on visa liberalization dialogues and mobility partnership. In addition, it has a work plan which is adopted annually.

2. Contribution to migration governance at national, (inter)regional and global levels (with examples)

National: As reported by national focal points of the EaP Panel, the ISCM facilitated improvements of migration policies in its Member States. In Ukraine and Georgia, for instance, it impacted migration and asylum management policies and practices. The EaP Panel contributed to Georgia's readmission and return and reintegration policies, as well as towards a new legislation on irregular migration and economic migrant integration. Moreover, it facilitated readmission agreements between Ukraine and Poland, Ukraine and Moldova and Ukraine and Switzerland. In Ukraine, the EaP Panel furthermore facilitated improvements on the legislation on irregular migrants.

3. Salient ISCM structures

The EaP Panel does not possess a legal personality and does not have a formal governing document. It is supported and steered by a network of national focal points. Relevant support and secretarial functions are performed by IOM, the European Commission and the European External Action Service. These entities provide technical and logistical support to organize events, facilitate communication between the constituency and conduct knowledge management, mainly by maintaining the panel's website. Other structures of the ISCM include the EaP Civil Society Forum and an ad hoc academia group. The panel is financed entirely through its secretariat, which provides stable funding. IOM, via an EU-funded project funds the ISCM's secretariat. In case of meetings, travel costs of EaP States representatives, academia and civil society are covered by the EU, EU Member States representatives fund themselves. A potential overlapping of function with other ISCMs in the region could be challenging for the EaP Panel.

4. Partnership models by the ISCM

The EaP Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management cooperates with another **ISCM**, the Prague Process, whose representatives are regularly participating in the panel's meetings. It works closely with **IGOs** and **regional political and economic unions**, with IOM, the EC and EEAS performing the secretariat role and representatives of other IGOs participating in the panel's events to share knowledge and best practices. The panel furthermore cooperates with **civil society** through the EaP Civil Society Forum and regularly invites **academia, universities and research institutions** to speak at its events. **Diaspora** and the **private sector** are sometimes invited to the ISCM's events, depending on needs.

5. Added value of Membership in the given ISCM for States and Organizations (with examples)

The ISCM provides its members with a forum for dialogue and exchange on migration, mobility and IBM policies and best practices, facilitates capacity building on migration management for government officials of EaP States and strengthens asylum and migration systems of Eastern Partners.

Among the Member States surveyed, Poland and Lithuania referred to the EaP Panel in their survey. Poland values its Membership in this ISCM for providing a stable platform to exchange best practices, to network with experts, to build partnerships and for engaging a broad spectrum of actors. In addition, the country was able to benefit from solutions provided by the ISCM to facilitate access of EaP countries to the Polish labor market. Lithuania values

its participation in the ISCM for its role in coordinating and synchronizing migration policies with the EU neighboring countries.