

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): ***Prague Process***

**1. Evolution of programming and thematic focus**

The Prague Process Joint Ministerial Declaration endorsed in 2009 didn't include Asylum and International Protection as a separate topic. This topic was, upon agreement of participating states, included to the Action Plan 2012-2016. Currently, Prague Process' thematic focus includes irregular migration, return and reintegration, legal/labour migration, migration & development, integration, Asylum/international protection.

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

**National level:** Through development and endorsement of Migration Profiles (Light and Extended), the Prague Process contributed to increased analytical and information collection skills of participating states, their evidence-based decision making as well as institutional changes leading towards increased abilities and closer intra- and international cooperation. Migration profiles of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo\*<sup>1</sup>, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan were developed in the course of the Prague Process existence. The work has also stimulated review or development of migration strategies and action plans of the countries that worked on the profiles, but also indirectly on other countries participating in the Process.

**Regional level:** The Prague Process participating states are considered as one unique "Prague Process region" with the policy being defined in Joint Ministerial Declarations.

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<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Coordination between regions has been ensured informally with Secretariats and leading states of other relevant processes/dialogues/RCPs/ISCMs when relevant and applicable.

**Global level:** Prague Process implements the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) and contributed to the formulation of Mobility Partnerships with EU neighbors in the east. Prague Process is following GFMD and GCM and GCR. Contribution of Prague Process was discussed during the process of development of GCM and presented in the IOM RCP meeting in Geneva in November 2017. Future involvement in GCM has been a subject to further assessment and discussion, while the Prague Process Senior Official' Meeting position on the potential role of Prague Process in implementation of GCM on regional level remains in force. Prague Process directly or indirectly contributes to selected SDGs.

### **3. Salient ISCM structures**

Prague Process consists of Chair, Steering Committee, Political Secretariat, Technical Secretariat and academia group. From the leadership by one country (Czechia 2009-2010, Poland 2011-2018) in cooperation with a project-based Steering Group, the managerial structure transformed into a group responsibility by the Strategic Group represented by dedicated states (Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Lithuania, together with EC DG HOME and current EU Presidency) with a rotating chairmanship. The main direction of the Prague Process continues to be set by Ministerial Conferences and the implementation is done upon decisions of the Senior Officials' Meeting. The Migration Observatory and Training Academy were established and are operational. Increasing involvement of academia can be observed. Working Groups were established upon respective project requirements, resulting in production of thematic guidelines and handbooks. Prague Process is 100% funded by project grant from donors and in-kind contributions by the Chair and Member States.

### **4. Partnership models by the ISCM**

Prague Process is an informal, voluntary and non-binding process. States decide upon their participation on their own. Engagement of relevant EU agencies, networks or other EU actors together with well selected objectives and topics for discussions ensure interest from the participating states' side. It cooperates closely with the European Commission. Links were established to CIS ExCom, EAEC, OSCE as well.

It has been sharing good practices among Budapest Process, Khartoum Process, Rabat Process, Euromed etc. It also keeps regular communication with EaP PMA (now EaP PMM&IBM) to ensure coherence and has ad-hoc coordination with the Almaty Process.

IOM and UNHCR, considered as Prague Process partners, are the regular intergovernmental organization participants in the Process' activities, often providing inputs, presentations or capacity building, being also invited to contribute to policy documents and joint declarations and action plans for ministerial endorsements.

Civil society is regularly invited to expert-level meetings where their expertise is considered relevant. Selected universities, think tanks or individuals contribute to the work of the Migration Observatory and Training Academy.

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

Prague Process is an informal, voluntary and non-binding inter-governmental dialogue on migration. It is a platform facilitating exchange of priorities, lessons learnt and best practices in migration among its participating states. The following benefits apply to the participating States and Organizations: trust-building, networking, partnerships, policy coordination; access to more stakeholders, technical advice and policy guidance, knowledge, common understandings and approaches to migration issues, dialogue on new emerging issues, possibility to feed into global initiatives addressing migration, capacity building, actual projects and programs, etc.