



# Fourth Steering Committee Meeting

---

9 October 2017, 10.00 – 12.45

## Minutes



## Participants

[REDACTED]	DG HOME – Chair of the Steering Committee
[REDACTED]	DG HOME
[REDACTED]	DG HOME
[REDACTED]	DG HOME
[REDACTED]	DG DEVCO
[REDACTED]	EEAS
[REDACTED]	DG NEAR
<u>ICMPD / Secretariat of the Steering Committee:</u>	
[REDACTED]	Head of ICMPD Brussels Mission MPF Project Director
[REDACTED]	Programme Coordinator Global Initiatives MPF Programme Manager
[REDACTED]	MPF Project Manager
[REDACTED]	MPF Project Officer
[REDACTED]	MPF Junior Project Officer

## Outcome of the discussion

### Presence and composition of the Steering Committee (SC)

The Chair of the SC took note of the presence of all members of the SC.

### MPF state of play: Third Interim Report, implementation of actions (scenarios A1, B1), achievements under scenario B2 and lessons learnt (ICMPD)

ICMPD and DG HOME opened the meetings with some **introductory remarks** highlighting the good progress made in the reporting period, on the concrete achievements in particular with regards to the so-called MP architecture and the added value of MPF as sense-making initiative. Also the inclusion of the Prague Process under the MPF was referred to as an important outcome.

However, it was also reiterated that DG HOME funds cannot be seen as replacing funding source of DG DEVCO or DG NEAR initiatives: in this respect increased dialogue between EC services, coordination, coherence and complementarities among various tools established to address the EU external dimension of migration policy should be ensured.

ICMPD presented the state of play of MPF implementation focusing on:



- **The 14 Grant Applications received** under the call for proposal launched on 18 April 2016, of which:
  - o Three rejected;
  - o Seven actions granted; and;
  - o Two contracts under preparation.
- **The preliminary results** of four actions about to end and **highlights of recently launched actions** (for more info on all actions see annexed third interim report);
- **The continuous outreach and promotion of MPF** leading to four additional applications likely to absorb remaining funding in the pipeline. The MPF team organises targeted meetings with EU MS, partner countries and EU Agencies with the aim to generate valuable ideas.
- **Monitoring and evaluation of actions** through monthly monitoring calls to collect field notes and on-spot missions for MPF actions. Such tools have been developed and tested with positive feedback from beneficiaries. Moreover, **lessons and findings** from implemented actions are regularly extracted;
- **The overview of actions and MPF absorption** (as presented in the annexed interim report) indicating that over 70% of the overall MPF budget dedicated to actions has been already allocated;
- **Scenario B1** under which the Action “Fostering capacities and cooperation on IBM among EaP training institutions” was launched. The first Action Implementation Team Meeting was organised on 26-27 September 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. The eight countries involved (BG, HU, PL, SK + AM, BY, GE, MD) will soon gather in four upcoming events in Minsk (Nov 2017), Chisinau (Jan 2018), Sofia (Feb 2018) and Budapest (Apr 2018).
- **The list of horizontal activities** (B2 scenario) carried out, in particular:
  - o The rationalisation of MP **scoreboards** with the aim to develop a common online platform where information can be downloaded through different filters. This tool aims to generate knowledge and feed the monitoring of MPs implementation and decision-making process through information extracted. An IT supplier has been selected and two meetings have already been organised with DG HOME;
  - o The inclusion of the **Prague Process Transition Phase (PP TP)** as of 1 July 2017;
  - o The **Evaluation exercise of four Mobility Partnerships** (Cabo Verde, Georgia, Moldova and Tunisia) to be carried out by the Graduate School of Governance of the University of Maastricht. The kick-off meeting is planned on 17 October, while the exercise will be finalised by the end of April 2018;
  - o A more **targeted approach in the outreach and promotion of MPF towards EU MS and partner countries** to boost the responsiveness of competent authorities applying under the facility. Regular contacts with **partner countries allow to** stay abreast of any development concerning their institutional, legal and policy frameworks and priorities; and
  - o The focus of the third edition of the **Newsletter** planned for November 2017.
- A number of **success factors** were confirmed in the reporting period, namely:
  - o MPF light procedures (open nature of the Call for Proposals, short evaluation, high contribution);



- Relevance of MPs and its architecture, as cooperation tools, in of the wider migration policy context;
  - Responding partner countries' and EU MS' objectives with tailored and well-targeted actions;
  - Strong knowledge management capacity to generate/facilitate ideas and sense-making of MPs-related processes;
  - Importance of dedicated/targeted meetings with EU MS/partner countries/EU agencies to identify, elaborate and fine-tune feasible actions; and
  - Recognised advisory role of the MPF Team in liaising with EU MS and partner countries as well as providing guidance during application stages.
- Also in terms of **challenges to implementation**, many points were confirmed, in particular:
- The short timeframe for actions limiting the overall number of proposals submitted;
  - EU MS limited capacities (human resources and project management) to coordinate actions;
  - The time need to identify the 'right' interlocutors (in specific areas of intervention) across EU MS;
  - The national administrative procedures likely to delay both application and implementation processes;
  - The need to expand the network of national focal points as those established are always conducive of sharing information across institutions;
  - The concomitant availability of other (larger scale) funding opportunities receiving more interests from potential applicants;
  - The eligibility restricted to EU MS public bodies which limits the role that other active actors (such as non-governmental organisations) can play.

### Highlights on MPF II

ICMPD presented also the main elements of the next Delegation Agreement which is being currently discussed with DG HOME.

- MPF II will remain a key tool to address emerging priorities and needs: with **flexible thresholds** under the call for proposals with an open deadline;
- The **inclusion of non-governmental bodies** as possible co-applicants will enable to tackle EU MS' limited capacities in project management as well as to make use of existing cooperation modes of EU MS' administrations with such bodies;
- The **Scenario B1** will be fine-tuned in order to address requests from partner countries through European Migration Liaison Officers (EMLOs) and EU Delegations. MP High Level Meetings and meetings of Local Cooperation Platforms could be also useful fora to formulate such requests;
- The **Scenario B2** will be divided into three strands:
  - Knowledge Management Process, incl. regional peer-to-peer exchanges ("incubators");
  - Outreach, communications and awareness raising; and
  - Political dimension ("architecture" and the Prague Process). For the latter, DG HOME and ICMPD will discuss the most viable solution which could result in including the Prague Process under a stand-alone scenario;



The discussions were centred on:

- **The opening of the Call for Proposals to private organisations**

The private sector might be interested in applying (as co-applicant) and under certain modalities (on a no-profit basis).

- **The network of contacts**

Outreach should involve more actors and not only FoPs. Missions to EU MS are a good way to meet different actors and understand their involvement.

- **Monitoring and evaluation**

DG NEAR reminded the importance of keeping in mind synergies with already existing platform such as the Trust Fund and the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) database. A meeting will be organised before the development of the Mobility Partnership online platform described above.

Also, monitoring and assessment of the actions granted under the MPF actions should be ensured in the next phase in order to verify the sustainability of the results achieved and their contribution to the development of the partner countries' economies. A reflection on the criteria/indicators to be used was also recommended by DG HOME.

### MPF Annual Work Plan 2017

ICMPD presented an **amended version** of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2017 with the main aim to adjust the timeframe of some activities, cancel tasks no longer needed and include the PP TP under the horizontal strand.

The draft for the **revised AWP 2017** accompanies this document for SC review and approval.

### Conclusions and summary of next steps

The SC took note of the progress in MPF implementation. It was agreed that the points below will be addressed:

- The **AWP 2017** will be shared with the SC for approval.
- Consolidation of **existing processes** (grants management, monitoring and evaluation of actions, development of the online platform, evaluation exercise, full absorption of the PP, implementation of actions under Scenario B1 and outreach and communication activities to further promote MPF and its achievements).
- Finally, the possibility for the MPF to manage a complementary action on **labour migration** will be also investigated in the coming months.

